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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 16, 1873. NO. 81.

FIRST EDITION

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

EUGENIE AFFECTED BY BAZAINE'S SENTENCE.

LONDON, December 15.—The Empress Eugenie was so affected by the result of the Bazaine trial, that the postponement of her visit to Queen Victoria was necessary.

DEATH OF A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.

LONDON, December 15.—Mr. Winterbotham, member of Parliament and Under Secretary for the Home Department, is dead.

LOSS OF A STEAMER AND TWENTY-TWO LIVES.

LONDON, December 16.—The steamship Beckton has been lost in the Mediterranean, and twenty-two lives lost.

France.

PETITION FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY.

PARIS, December 15.—In the Assembly today, M. Dahirel, of the extreme Right, presented a petition for the restoration of the monarchy, with 120,000 signatures.

AID TO EUGENIE.

An agreement negotiated by M. Rouher, whereby the government is to restore certain art collections, and pay to the ex-Empress Eugenie $600,000, has been submitted to the budget committee.

Spain.

BOMBARDMENT OF CARTAGENA—ON ITS SUCCESS THE RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC TO DEPEND.

MADRID, December 15.—The bombardment of Cartagena opened again to-day with increased vigor. It is said that the great powers have assured President Castelar that they will recognize the republic when the Cartagenian insurrection is suppressed.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REPROACHED.

MADRID, December 15.—The *Imparcial* reproaches the Government of the United States with permitting meetings in New Orleans for the organization of expeditions against Cuba.

Germany.

DEATH OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

BERLIN, December 15.—Elizabeth, Queen Dowager of Prussia, is dead. Age, seventy-two.

GOVERNMENT SUBSCRIBES TO HUNGARIAN LOAN.

LONDON, December 15.—The German government subscribes for 24,000,000 marcs of the new Hungarian loan.

Switzerland.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT.

BERNE, December 15.—Dr. C. Schenck has been elected President and Dr. E. W. Eller Vice President of the Swiss Confederation.

Various.

LIVERPOOL, December 15.—Steamships Frisia and Canada, from New York, arrived out.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 15.—Consols for money 91¾ @ 92; account 92¼@92¾; 5-20s of '65, 91½; do '67, 91 @ 91⅝; 10-40s, 92¾; new 5s, 92¾; New York Central 79; Erie 37@37¼; Erie preferred 58¾. Turpentine 31s. Tallow 46s 9d.

FRANKFORT, December 15.—5-20s of '62, 97⅝.

PARIS, December 15.—Rentes 59 francs 20 centimes.

LIVERPOOL, December 15.—Cotton a shade firmer; middling upland 8⅝; sales of the week 74,000 bales; speculation and export 9,000 bales. Breadstuffs quiet and unchanged in every respect. Pork 67s 6d. Petroleum 11d.

STEUBENVILLE.

River Higher Yesterday than Since 1863—Railroad Passengers Transferred In Boats—Steamers Delayed—No Great Damage Done.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

STEUBENVILLE, O., December 15, 1873.

The river at this point is now about thirty-four feet and falling slowly. The towboats I. N. Phillips, Sam Clarke and Tiger, with tows of coal, are laid up here waiting for lower water. The Wheeling packet Forest City has been transferring passengers for the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railway Company, between Steubenville and Lagrange, to day, the track being covered with water. Trains will probably be running on time to-morrow. Last night the water reached the highest point since 1863. Very little damage was done in this neighborhood. At Wellsburg, West Virginia, the water reached the curbstones on Main street, but no serious damage is reported. Warrenton, Ohio, was badly flooded, but no lives were lost, and it is thought the damage to property will not be very great.

FORT WAYNE.

Boy Run Over by a Railroad Train—Water Subsiding.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, December 15, 1873.

Yesterday evening, Willie Porter, aged fifteen, in attempting to cross the railroad track between two cars while the train was in motion, fell, and the wheels passed over one leg, making amputation necessary, and endangering his life.

The high water is going down, and the weather being clear, no further danger is apprehended from that quarter.

IRONTON, O.

A Sunday Row—Man Fatally Wounded—Nail Works Resume.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

IRONTON, O., December 15, 1873.

Sunday afternoon a party of young men invaded the saloon of Adam Huffman, at Hanging Rock, three miles below here, took forcible possession of his liquors and proceeded to enjoy them. During the drunken row that ensued, Theodore Murphy was cut eleven times by Chas. Gowdy. His recovery is doubtful.

The Bellefonte Nail Works resumed operations for a short time, this morning.

CASUALTIES.

Killed by a Falling Tree.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DAYTON, O., December 15, 1873.

Christian Schultz, aged 47, was instantly killed last Saturday evening by a tree falling on him which he was chopping down on the grounds of the new Catholic cemetery, outside the city limits.

Cincinnati Workingmen Demand of the City Authorities Work at Good Wages.

CINCINNATI, December 15.—In pursuance of the resolutions of last Saturday night workingmen, variously estimated at from six hundred to a thousand, headed by a band of music, bearing the National colors and also a banner inscribed with the words "We want work—not charity," marched to Mayor Johnston's office and their leader, Mr. Haller, in an address, said to Mayor Johnston: "We ask you not to do any wrong, but ask that you and the city authorities will do all you can to assist us." The Mayor replied that the city had been doing its best for their relief, and was still trying to do all that could be done. A speech was made by one man denouncing the dollar and a quarter a day paid by the city as too low. A report is circulated that the laborers in Burnett Woods Park have struck for higher wages than a dollar and a quarter.

Important Resolutions by Philadelphia Board of Trade.

PHILADELPHIA, December 15.—The Board of Trade to-night adopted the following:

"Resolved, That this Board is opposed to any increase of the paper currency of the country, so long as it continues to be irredeemable in specie on demand." Resolutions were also adopted in regard to the bankruptcy law based on those approved by the National Board of Trade at Chicago in October.

Decision of an Important Will Case.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

DELAWARE, O., December 15, 1873.

The suit brought by Jane Dusenbury and others to set aside the will of Daniel Dusenbury, has been decided in favor of the plaintiffs. The amount involved is nineteen thousand dollars, of which one thousand was for Dennison University, of Granville, Ohio.

Struck by Paralysis.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 15, 1873.

John Baird, agent for Adams Express Company and for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at this place, had a stroke of paralysis while at a funeral yesterday evening. One side is completely paralyzed. He is better to-day.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The funeral of the late Prof. Agassiz will take place in College Chapel, Cambridge, at half-past two, Thursday, and will be public.

The New England Woman's Tea Party celebrated the One Hundreth anniversary of the throwing the tea into Boston harbor, yesterday afternoon, in Faneuil Hall. Five thousand persons were present.

The steamship Idaho, from Liverpool, arrived at New York yesterday.

Wheat Advancing.

Look out for flour.

Wheat Advancing.

Look out for flour.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1873.

SENATE.

The Chaplain, in the opening prayer, invoked the Divine blessing upon the newly-elected President *pro tem.*

Mr. SUMNER presented a petition of the citizens of Pennsylvania, asking Congress to take steps to provide for the settlement of foreign difficulties by arbitration. Mr. Sumner said the petition was in response to a resolution adopted by the British House of Commons.

Mr. MORTON, from the Committee on Privileges and Elections, submitted a report that the committee had considered the contested election case of P. B. S. Pinchback and General McMillan, claiming seats as Senators from Louisiana, and were evenly divided. He, therefore, asked that the whole matter be referred to the Senate. It was so ordered.

Mr. MORTON then introduced a resolution that the credentials of P. B. S. Pinchback are formal, and that he is entitled to a seat in the Senate, having a prima facie case, and gave notice that to-morrow, after the morning hour, he would ask the Senate to consider the resolution.

Mr. SAULSBURY thought the Senate should have time to consider the facts of the case.

Mr. CONKLING inquired if the Committee on Privileges and Elections had reported the evidence taken in regard to Pinchback.

Mr. MORTON replied that the committee had taken no evidence. He introduced the resolution as a question of right.

After debate, Mr. MORTON'S resolution went over, and Mr. Sherman called up the resolution reported by him from the Finance Committee on Wednesday, in regard to the present financial derangement.

Mr. PRATT addressed the Senate in favor of inflation of the currency.

At the expiration of the morning hour Mr. SHERMAN objected to further debate and called up the resolution reported by him from the Finance Committee on Wednesday, in regard to the currency certificates.

Mr. ANTHONY introduced a resolution directing the Committee on Printing to inquire what changes are necessary in printing and distributing public documents. Referred.

Mr. CONKLING presented a petition of ship owners, touching the Geneva award. The petitioners claimed that during the rebellion they were engaged in commerce on the high seas, and vessels belonging to them were destroyed by other rebel cruisers than the Alabama and those built in the yards of this national, and therefore they were entitled to part of that award. Referred.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported back the House bill to provide for the redemption of the loan of 1858. It was passed with several unimportant amendments.

The resolutions reported by Mr. SHERMAN of the Finance Committee, on Wednesday last, were then taken up.

Mr. FERRY, of Michigan, offered as a substitute the resolution recently introduced by him, directing the Finance Committee to report such measures as would establish free banking, increase the volume of the currency $100,000,000, and make the whole currency of government issue. The views of the minority, as reported by Mr. Bayard on Wednesday, were read.

Mr. PRATT addressed the Senate. He did not see how it was practicable to return to specie payments, and favored an elasticity of currency. The voice of the entire West was unanimous that we must have more currency. He referred to the high rates of interest and to the fact that money will be scarce when, for legitimate purposes, it commands 1½ per cent. The currency should be adjusted to meet the legitimate wants of business, and in such a manner as to look forward steadily to a return of specie payments. He would vote for the resolution reported by the majority, but would do so with the expectation that the Committee would report a plan to increase the volume of currency.

Mr. MORTON said he would like to be heard on this subject, but was not prepared to speak now, and therefore asked that the resolution should go over till to-morrow.

Mr. SHERMAN had no doubt that the Committee on Finance was prepared to carry into execution the will of the Senate, but he thought it a different proposition to name a day when specie payment should be resumed. The resolution was laid over.

The bill to authorize the organization of National banks without circulation, was taken up. Mr. Morton favored the passage of the bill, and Messrs. Merriam and Bayard opposed it. Without taking a vote, the Senate went into Executive session, and soon after adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House proceeded to the call of the States for bills, and large number were introduced and referred.

By Mr. COX, to protect shipping on the Atlantic from destructive eastern gales. Also for a better preservation of harbors, channels and lakes.

By Mr. KELLEY, for the issue of convertible bonds, and the reduction of interest on the funded debt.

By Mr. HARRIS, to put printing paper, &c., on the free list.

By Mr. BELL, to allow producers to sell leaf tobacco without tax.

By Mr. CALDWELL, for reciprocal free trade with Spanish-American possessions.

By Mr. COBURN, a bill authorizing National banks to withdraw bonds in proportion to their reduction of circulation. Also, one granting a pension to the widow of Gen. Canby.

By Mr. WILSON, a bill to aid the execution of laws in Utah.

By Mr. PACKARD, a bill for the survey for a ship canal from Lake Michigan to Wabash river.

By Mr. FORT, for the survey and report of the cost of a double track railroad from Omaha to New York city, for the transportation of heavy freight.

By Mr. BUCKNER, to prescribe the time for the election of Representatives in Congress.

By Mr. LOUGHRIDGE, to impose a tax on incomes of $3,000 and over; also, to regulate commerce between States and to regulate reasonable rates of railroad charges for freight.

By Mr. HOUGHTON, for a trans-continental railroad.

By Mr. NESMITH, to transfer to the War Department the management of Indian affairs.

The total number of bills introduced to-day was over three hundred.

Mr. MYERS presented the memorial of over three thousand druggists and chemists, asking the removement of the stamp tax on medicinal preparations, or a modification of the law to confine the tax to patent or proprietaries medicines. Referred.

Mr. ROAF offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report whether the action of the House is required concerning the official loonduct of the Judge of the United States Court for the District of Alabama, and especially whether that Judge has held the terms of Court required by law, and whether he has continuously and persistently absented himself from the State, and whether his acts and omissions in his office of Judge have been such as in any decree to deprive the people of that State of the benefit of the District Court therein, and to amount to a denial of justice. Adopted.

Mr. TREMAINE, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported a bill to repeal the bankruptcy law, and moved to suspend the rules to bring the bill before the House. The bill was read. The first section repeals the bankrupt law and all its amendments; the second provides that where there are bankruptcy proceedings pending, the majority, in value, of its creditors, whose claims have been proven or are provable, to determine in what manner and on what terms and conditions the estate of the bankrupt shall be administered, and such resolution shall be immediately confirmed by the Court; further sections arrange the details. After various propositions and suggestions, the motion was modified so as to make the bill the special order for to-morrow, to devote two hours to its discussion, and then to have a vote taken without dilatory motions. It was so ordered.

Mr. DAWES called the attention of the House to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Treasury for an increase of taxation to the amount of forty million dollars, and said that the Committee on Ways and Means had instructed him to offer the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Treasury has recommended, in an official letter to the Committee on Ways and Means, an increase in certain customs duties and internal taxation; therefore be it

Resolved, That the heads of the several departments be instructed to revise their estimates of expenditures for the next fiscal year with a view to the changed condition of the country, to a reduction thereon, and to report the same to this House, to the end that all possible efforts at reduction may be exhausted before new burdens shall be imposed on the people.

He said that it had come to the knowledge of the Committee on Ways and Means, since it had instructed him to report that resolution, that the Committee on Appropriations had been considering the same matter. The two committees had come to an agreement on a resolution, which the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations would offer, and he yielded to him for that purpose.

Mr. GARFIELD then, from the Committee on Appropriations, offered the following resolution:

WHEREAS, It appears that since the estimates of appropriations required for the service of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1875, which have been laid before the House, were made by the several departments of the Government, the country has entered on a period of great financial embarrassment, accompanied by a shrinkage in values and a heavy falling off in the revenue; and

WHEREAS, In the judgment of the House, the foregoing facts make it the duty of Congress to reduce expenditures to the lowest point consistent with the necessities of the Government; and

WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Treasury has recommended in an official letter to the Committee on Ways and Means, an increase in certain duties and internal taxation; therefore,

Resolved, That the President be requested to cause a revision of said estimates to be made by the several executive departments, and cause a report to be made to the House, if possible, as early as the 5th of January next, setting forth in detail what public expenditures for the current fiscal year and what estimates for the next fiscal year can be reduced, and the amount of such reduction without serious detriment to the public service.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, asked Mr. Garfield how much he believed the estimates could be reduced, if they had been properly made up to carry out existing laws.

Mr. GARFIELD said it was impossible for him to answer that question at this stage of the session. He only knew that in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, and in the President's Message, reference was made to the fact that a large number of public buildings had been authorized by the last Congress, on which work had not yet been begun. It had been suggested that work might be suspended, or rather might not be begun, and consequently three or four millions might be covered back into the treasury. It was so, perhaps, in regard to fortifications, rivers and harbors, etc. He was able to see a number of places where reduction could be made without damage to the public service even in expenses for the current year; still more, he should think in the estimates for next year. The House would notice that the total estimates for the next fiscal year were fifteen millions more than the estimates last year.

Mr. DAWES thought it hardly possible to cut down estimates to the limit of forty or fifty millions required. He thought that before Congress undertook to revive any taxation that had been removed, i should show to the country its disposition to cut off every re'undant expenditure, and reduce every salary possible under its jurisdiction.

Mr. COX asked the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee for some definite statements as to the articles to be taxed, the rate of taxation, and whether it was the intention of the Government to enlarge the volume of currency.

Mr. DAWES said that the letter from the Secretary of the Treasury had gone to the public prints to-day, and that that conveyed all the information which he felt at liberty to extend. It had seemed incumbent on the committees, although urged to take up and pass before the holidays a bill to raise forty-two millions dollars by increased taxation, to ask Congress to make this appeal to the heads of departments, in order to see when Congress returned after the holidays, whether it was then possible to refrain from this extreme measure.

Mr. BUTLER said if increased tax was to be put on whisky and tobacco, and the tax on tea and coffee restored, it should be done instantly—otherwise it will yield no revenue; because, in addition to the immediate amount of whisky and tobacco on which the tax would be forced into consumption, or into such hands that it would escape taxation; and merchants would import all the tea and coffee they could, in view of the tax that was to reach it; so that we shall have raised a tax on tea, coffee, whisky and tobacco, without any advantage to the Government.

Mr. DAWES—If my colleague mean to suggest the propriety of at once imposing such a tax?

Mr. BUTLER—I say that all the advantage of such taxation will be taken away from the Government, and simply put into the hands of owners of the produce or imported goods to enhance the price. I wonder, therefore, why this has not been another way open to the country, and that is to reduce the interest on the public debt by substituting non-paying interest notes, which the people demand, for the high paying interest bonds which are held in Europe. That will be, in my judgement, an immediate relief, relieving us in a variety of ways. I think the people demand and the country demands such a measure instead of a measure to find out how a few millions can be saved, paring here and there, and then attempting a taxation which will be fruitless. Nay, more, I think such a method of taxation and this proposition will only result in good to those who desire a shrinkage in values by coming back to that mischievious dogma, the idea of specie payments. I want our currency made as good as specie, but any idea of substituting specie payment for it, is a delusion and a snare. There never will be specie payments in this country, and there never will be, because under any system of banking that was ever had or proposed, whenever specie to the amount of $5 millions was called for the banks broke down. I would like to hear from our chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means a report of another measure of relief by a loan at a low rate of interest convertible and reconvertible into greenbacks.

Mr. DAWES said that the suggestion from the proper authority that it was necessary for us, instead of retrenching, to borrow money to meet current expenses, would be a blow to credit to our credit abroad. He continued: "I fear that reduction in estimates may not be much. I know that it will not be much. I do not believe my way about it, the knife would go into that book of estimates, and with a conviction on my part that I would not be imparting the subtle secret of economy, until the difference between current receipts and the current expenditures would no longer exist. Sir, the book of estimates is a harvest. When the sickle was put into that book, so unlike that which I used to carry here under my arm, it is almost unintelligible to me. The only thing about it I can realize and understand is that many of the items the estimates are going on increasing, until this year, in face of this exigency, the grand total estimate is about twelve millions more than the actual appropriations last year and besides that we have deficiencies, which recent exigencies make necessary, which we have got to meet, and which no patriotic heart can resist. There are other deficiencies, to which, in my opinion, it is our duty to apply a law which will render illegal everything that pertains to the enactment of them."

Mr. COX—I ask the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, whether or not a reduction of the tariff has been considered with a view to increased revenue. Has that matter come before his committee?

Mr. DAWES—No measure to meet this exigency, beyond that which I have communicated to the House, has the committee had time to consider.

Mr. COX—Would it be in order to suggest to the honorable gentleman, whether during the holidays, the Committee on Ways and Means might not properly consider the reduction of the tariff on various articles which we all know would enhance the revenue?

Mr. BUTLER—My colleague talks about affecting our credit in Europe. I have heard that before, and I want to say here and now, that we have had too much credit in Europe for our bonds. We have had it until we are now sending one hundred and twenty-five millions in gold every year to pay the interest on them, and the quicker they stop taking our bonds the better off we are. When the gentleman comes here to accuse the Republican party of increasing the estimates year by year (for we are responsible for the administration of the Government), I want him to put in the same paper, so that men cannot quote one without also quoting the other, that we have an increasing country, year by year increasing in greater proportion. Let the base and antidote go on together.

Mr. GARFIELD asked Mr. Dawes if the Committee on Ways and Means had thought it wise to divulge to the country the desire of the Secretary of the Treasury that the tea and coffee should be restored, and an additional tax put upon whisky and tobacco. He thought it exceedingly imprudent.

Mr. DAWES said that he did not know how the matter had become public. He knew that, on receipt of the Secretary's communication the Committee on Ways and Means had resolved itself into secresy upon the matter, and that while it was doing so the whole thing was published in the New York dailies. Mr. Dawes remarked that he supposed that the Committee on Ways and Means had thought it wise not to proclaim it, were reasons that had been suggested by his colleague, Mr. Butler.

Mr. NIBLACK said that the question struck him as a plain, business proposition. The imposition of increased taxes was, of course, a very unpleasant thing for the House to do in the present depressed financial condition of the country; but he presumed that gentlemen on all sides of the House would be willing to impose whatever taxes were necessary to sustain the public credit. If no very important reduction could be made in the estimates, the proposition could, at least, have the effect of satisfying the country that Congress was willing to make an honest effort to avert the imposition of an Decreased taxation. He therefore, did not see what injury the adoption of the resolution could have.

Mr. COBURN decided the idea that the House was not able to provide for itself, without consulting the departments as to what appropriations should be made, and he took occasion to speak in favor of the proposition which he had already submitted to the House, of parcelling out the work of the Committee on Appropriations among half a dozen other committees. At the close of the discussion the question was taken on Mr. Garfield's resolution, and it was adopted.

Mr. DAWES then submitted a resolution for an adjournment over the holidays, from Tuesday, the 23d of December, till Monday, the 5th of January.

Mr. SCOFIELD moved to amend by making it extend from Friday, the 19th of December, till Tuesday, the 6th of January. Mr. Scofield's amendment was agreed to, 145 yeas to 114 nays, and the resolution, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania, asked leave to offer his resolution referring to a temporary loan by the Government.

Mr. DAWES objected unless the resolution was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. KELLY moved to suspend the rules and adopt the resolution.

Mr. WHEELER moved to adjourn. The motion, which was regarded somewhat in the light of a test vote on Mr. Kelley's resolution was agreed to, yeas 119, nays 114, and the House adjourned.

Last Hours of Professor Agassiz.

BOSTON, December 15.—The last hours of Professor Agassiz were apparently passed in unconsciousness. At 2 P. M., on Sunday, he had an attack similar to the one experienced before. There was a suspension of respiration which continued half a minute, accompanied by other indications of approaching dissolution. These were succeeded by unnaturally rapid breathing, that continued to grow fainter with departing vigor. The patient lay upon his side, and beyond an occasional convulsive movement of the limbs, there were no signs that he suffered pain, and the finale was scarcely perceptible. Flags in Cambridge are at half mast.

Great Inducements for Cash

For four and all kinds of groceries at the Checkered Front.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Question of Increased Taxation.

Comparison of Estimates and Expenditures.

Explanatory Letter of Secretary Richardson.

Views of Congressman Kelley.

Judge Williams's Nomination.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1873.

Increase of Taxation.

The temper of the House is by no means favorable to an increase of taxation; and to obviate, if practicable, any such measure, the Committee on Appropriations, at their session this morning, agreed to the resolution, which was subsequently reported and adopted in the House, calling on the President to direct the heads of the various executive departments to cut down their estimates to the lowest possible figure. The estimates for 1874, in round numbers, were three hundred and eight millions; and the appropriations two millions less. The estimates for 1875 are three hundred and nineteen millions, making an increase of eleven millions, two hundred and twenty-five millions of the amount is for the Treasury Department alone. The State Department estimates are double those for 1874. The net receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, were three hundred and fourteen millions, and the actual expenses, two hundred and seventy millions six hundred thousand, an excess of forty-three millions four hundred thousand. The decline in revenue will more than offset this. The increase of the debt for December has already reached five millions, and will be likely to reach ten millions for the full month.

Assignment of Bills.

The various appropriation bills in the House have been assigned as follows: Laughridge, Parkes and Hancock, the Indian Appropriation bill; O'Neil, Pension; Swann, Consular and Diplomatic; Starkweather, Fortifications; Marshal, Military Academy; Poland, Postal Service; White, the Army, and Hale, the Navy. Thedeficiency, sundry civil, and the legislative, executive, and judicial bills were not assigned, but the chairman, General Garfield, will have charge of the latter and mainly prepare it.

Compensation of Members.

The Salary Committee have agreed upon five thousand five hundred dollars and actual expense in going and returning from Congress, as the compensation of members hereafter. The attempt to call up the bill was defeated by the House to-day.

Pinchback vs. McMillan.

The Pinchback-McMillan case was reported to the Senate to-day, the Committee stating that they were equally divided. Morton, Logan, Ingalls and Anthony are in favor of Pinchback, and Carpenter, Alcorn, Hamilton and Saulsbury are for McMillan. Mr. Sumner has never attended any of the meetings of the committee. The committee are anxious to secure action before the holidays, and Morton will make an effort to secure a night session. Mr. West threatens to oppose a holiday recess if no action be taken, in opposition, probably, to any amount to anything. The Secretary of the Navy was in the Senate to-day, urging the immediate passage of the four-million bill. An effort will be made also to secure favorable action on the bill authorizing the organization of National banks without circulation.

Case of Judge Williams.

The case of Attorney General Williams was again before the Senate in Executive session to-day. Greater opposition was manifested than was anticipated by the friends of Mr. Williams. It is probable that the case will be protracted some time longer—into January, it is said. There is every indication that the House will amend the bankrupt act.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 15, 1873.

INCREASE OF THE DEBT.

The Secretary, to-day, after the necessary examination, ascertained that the public debt has increased since the 1st instant five million dollars.

LETTER FROM SECRETARY RICHARDSON TO MR. DAWES—INCREASED TAXATION DISCUSSED AND EXPLAINED.

The Secretary of the Treasury has written the following letter to Mr. Dawes, Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
WASHINGTON, 15th, 1873.

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, transmitting the resolution of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and asking the Secretary of the Treasury to give his reasons in writing for an increase in taxation, and why he has selected the articles named in his communication, as the proper objects for increased taxation, and that he inform the committee specifically as to expenditures and the condition of the revenue which renders the proposed increase necessary. In the report which, in accordance with law, I had the honor recently to submit to Congress, I used the following language: "Should there not be a revival of business at an early day, and an increase in the receipts for those o the past two and a half months, additional means will be required to meet expenses. Should such be the case, I recommend additional taxation, judiciously laid, so as to be the least burden upon people and business of the country," rather than a resort to borrowing or largely increasing the public debt." It is on the grounds here generally stated, that I suggested increased taxation. The receipts from customs and internal taxes have not materially increased, and I cannot say that no considerable augmentation of these receipts is soon to be expected under the law now existing. The public debt was increased by demands which could not be avoided during the month of November, to the extent of over $9,000,000, and it is apparent that it will be still further increased during the current month by calls for millions. While the coin receipts are but little more than sufficient to pay the interest on the public debt and other coin expenditures, it will not be prudent to sell gold to increase the supply of currency. The current expenses of the Government have already consumed about $3,000,000 of what had been called in the reserve, and there remains only about $26,000,000 which can be tised before the extreme limit of the issue of United States notes authorized by law will be reached. The public credit can only be maintained by keeping the receipts of the treasury fully up to the expenditures for ordinary expenses, for interest on the public debt and for the purchase of bonds for the sinking fund to the extent provided by law. It is manifestly the true policy, in view of maintaining that credit, to levy taxes as to make it certain that the required amount will be raised with a probability of some surplus revenue, rather than to incur the risk of a deficiency, which would make it necessary to borrow money and thereby increase the debt. In selecting tea and coffee for taxation I am guided in part by the consideration that taxes on those articles are easily collected, and are not oppressive to consumers. In selecting spirits, tobacco, gas, railway and steamboat tickets, insurance and telegraph companies, as subjects of taxation, I am governed principally by the reasons expressed by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue in his letter already forwarded to the committee in the following words: "In selecting sources for possible taxation, have taken those that would give the revenue probably needed without any material increase to the present force, or any amendment to the present system; considering that it is for the public convenience with as little interference as possible with the general business of the country, and that the tax gatherer should greet the people as few times, and as rarely possible. I have presented bills for increased taxation to the committee thus early that the subject may at once be called to the attention of both sides of the House, with action at an early day, as may be deemed expedient. It should be taken into account that the effect of any law which may be enacted to increase taxation will not fully appear for several months after its passage, and that in the apparent disposition among the people to reduce expenditures, the rates which may be fixed will produce the same amount of revenue as would accrue under different circumstances.

I have honor to be, very respectfully,
(Signed) WM. A. RICHARDSON, Secretary.

NOMINATIONS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President sent the following nominations to the Senate: John L. Pennington, of Alabama, to be Governor of Dakota; Hiram Idings, Pension Agent at Fort Wayne, Indiana; Oscar Whitney, Secretary Dakota Territory; Postmaster, Charles J. Ricks, Massillon, Ohio; J. G. Pole, Collector of Customs for the District of Sandusky, Ohio; Robert Hughes, District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia; Hiram Silver, Marshal for Dakota, and W. H. Wheeler, Marshal for Montana.

MR. KELLY'S VIEWS ON TAXATION.

The House Committee on Ways and Means, at a meeting yesterday, allotted their work among the different members. Mr. Kelly submitted a resolution, which he said he would introduce in the House:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this House that taxes which now burden the people should not be increased, but that extraordinary means, if any be required for the support of the Government during the temporary paralysis of the industries of country, now prevailing, should be obtained on temporary loan on bonds bearing a low rate interest, in currency and redeemable in United States notes."

THE VIRGINIUS AND PRISONERS.

The Canandaigua, Juniata and Kansas at last accounts were at Santiago de Cuba, and it is understood that these vessels will receive the passengers and crew of the Virginius, while the vessel will be delivered, perhaps, at Bahia Honda, although no thing trustworthy on this point can now be obtained from official sources. To-morrow is the time fixed for the consummation of the agreement.

SUPREME COURT DECISION—POWER OF A STATE TO TAX RAILROADS.

The Supreme Court to-day decided the case of the Union Pacific Railroad against Peniston, treasurer of Lincoln County, Nebraska, on an appeal from the Circuit Court of that State. Judge Strong delivered the opinion of the Court, holding that the taxing power of a State is an attribute of sovereignty; that it exists independently of the Constitution of the United States and is not derived from that instrument; and that it may be exercised to an unlimited extent on all property, trades, business and vocations existing or carried on within the boundaries of the State, except so far as it has been surrendered to the Federal Government, either expressly or by necessary implication. The Court, therefore, sustains the right of the State of Nebraska to tax the property of the Union Pacific Railroad within the boundaries of said State. Judge Bradley read a dissenting opinion, holding that the tax was an unlawful interference with the instrumentalities created by the National Government in carrying out the objects and powers conferred on it by the Constitution. Judge Field concurred in opinion with Judge Bradley. Judge Hunt dissented from the opinion of the Court. Judge Swayne give his views in his own way, but concurred in the conclusion reached by the majority of the Court.

The Centennial Overlooked in Congress—Inland Transportation Routes Revived.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 8, 1873.

Speaker Blaine seems to have overlooked the Select Committee on the Centennial Celebration. That great national event it is sincerely hoped will not be allowed to dwindle out of sight to such an extent that the Speaker of the House cannot even see it. The omission has occasioned considerable speculation as to the cause. If not being a standing committee, it will be announced hereafter.

In anticipation of the report of the perfigrinating Congressional Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard, the friends of the various schemes of internal improvement have commenced to present their rival claims.

The resolutions of the Legislature of Michigan, passed at their last session and after the adjournment of Congress, urge an appropriation for the survey of the Michigan ship canal, as follows:

Whereas, The President of the United States, in the interest of cheap transportation, and in view of the growing commerce of the great West, has called the attention of Congress to the importance of constructing ship canals from the West to the East, for the better and cheaper transportation of the surplus products of the Western granaries:

Resolved, That this Legislature most cordially indorses the feature of the annual Message of President Grant, believing that no act will be of the early consideration of a few such canals would be a source of relief to the rapidly increasing commerce of the States of the Northwest.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Michigan, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their influence to procure an appropriation for the survey of the Michigan ship canal, from some point on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan to some point of Lake Huron or Lake Erie.

Resolved, That his Excellency, the Governor, be requested to transmit copies of the foregoing preamble and resolutions to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

The same body also favors the construction of a ship canalaround the Falls of Niagara, and for that purpose submits the following resolutions:

Whereas, The experience of each passing year, and none more so than the past, fully and clearly demonstrates that the agricultural States of the West must have more means secure greater facilities and cheaper rates of transportation to the Atlantic sea board than they now possess, in order to insure their continued development and consequent prosperity; and

Whereas, That experience has equally demonstrated that those results can never be secured for the present means and facilities of transit; and

Whereas, In the judgment of this Legislature, the only means of securing such greater facilities and cheaper rates is by opening up continuous navigation of large capacity from Lake Erie down into Lake Ontario, and thence to the Atlantic Ocean, and as this can only be done by the construction of a canal around the falls of Niagara: Therefore, be it

Resolved, By this Legislature, that Congress be requested to adopt such legislation as will insure the speedy construction of that work.

Resolved, That our Senators and Representatives in Congress be requested to use their best efforts to secure such legislation.

Resolved, That duly authenticated copies of this memorial and resolutions be transmitted to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with a request that they lay them before their respective Houses, and to each of our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

There is hardly a probability, in view of the stringency of trade and the hostility of a large faction the grounds of unconstitutionality, that Congress will adopt any measures to expend money except such as may be absolutely necessary to the carrying on of the Government.

DEB. R. K.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16th, 1 A. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For the Middle States and the lake region, and thence southward to Tennessee, winds gradually backing to southerly with generally clear weather and slight changes of temperature. For the Northwest, generally clear weather with slight southerly to westerly winds will prevail during the day. For the Canal region of New York State, the temperature will remain stationary during the coming twenty-four hours.

Midnight Bulletin.

DECEMBER 15, 1873—10:48 P. M.

PLACE OF OBSERVATION.	Ther.	Wind.	Weather.
Cincinnati, O.	41	S. E.	Fair.
Davenport, Iowa.	37	S. W.	Clear.
Keokuk, Iowa.	42	Calm.	Clear.
Leavenworth, Ks.	36	Calm.	Clear.
Louisville, Ky.	40	Calm.	Clear.
Memphis, Tenn.	42	S. E.	Clear.
Nashville, Tenn.	38	Calm.

The Daily Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1873.

The new Constitution taxes the parsonage of every church, and every college building in the State.

Papers publishing the prospectus of the COMMERCIAL will oblige us by sending to this office marked copies in wrappers.

It is estimated that $9,000,000 are due from citizens of New York city for assessments. WILLIAM B. ASTOR is at the head of the list of delinquents.

MR. A. C. BOTKIN, for some time managing editor of the Chicago *Times*, has accepted the editorship of the Milwaukee *Sentinel*, under the new management of that journal.

MEMPHIS has the meanest man. She has just arrested a fellow named CICALLA on three indictments, charging him with stealing relief supplies sent to the yellow fever sufferers of that city, while temporarily serving in the capacity of Mayor.

FACTS are confined to the metropolis. Imagination flourishes in the suburbs.—*New York Herald.*

On what, pray, does the *Herald* base its pretensions to be a metropolitan journal?

THE Police Commissioners of New York have had another spasmodic attack of virtue, resulting in an organized raid on the gambling hells. It will not last long, and the dens will probably soon boldly resume operations.

THE Excise Commissioners of New York city have granted licenses for 6,872 places for the sale of liquor, or one rum shop to about each 140 of the population. Is it any wonder that crime is fearfully increased in our metropolis, or that thousands of her people suffer for the veriest necessaries of life?

JUDGE SAMUEL NELSON, who died at his home in Cooperstown, New Jersey, on Saturday, resigned his seat upon the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States in November last, and retired to private life. He was a Judge in State or Federal Courts for fifty years—a case without parallel in this country.

SUNSET COX has illustrated to the House the difference between "coward" and "cowered." He was quick enough to charge the House with being pusillanimous on the Cuban business; but when HAWLEY, of Connecticut, went at him in reply, he was such a coward that he instantly cowered before the manifest indignation of his colleagues.

THE disciples of the homœopathic school of medicine have fought long and under great difficulties to secure the recognition of their practice. The Michigan University is just now the seat of this kind of war. A mandamus was applied for, the other day, to compel the regents of that institution to appoint two homœopathic physicians to its medical departments, but the courts postponed the matter for three weeks. The decision will be looked for with interest.

THE meetings held in Washington of members of Congress, who favor legislation on the question of Transportation; show that while all the members agree that Congress ought to do something to promote the work of cheap transportation, they all differ as to how it shall be done. Some want the Erie canal enlarged; others want the mouths of the Mississippi dredged out; others prefer the St. Phillips canal; and not a few want canals made in other directions. Until they can all settle down in favor of some one plan, their action will be useless; and there seems little reason to hope that they will ever agree upon details.

MATTHEW HALE SMITH ("Burleigh") says that President GRANT ought to be elected a third time, for such reasons as these: He has never sought an office; he has been unjustly abused; he will not be older at the close of a third term than WASHINGTON was at the beginning of his first; the leading rebels rather like him; he is the first soldier and the ablest civil ruler in the world; "he is one of the few men born to command;" Senators and Representatives in Congress serve more than two terms if they can get elected, &c., &c. "Burleigh," however, has not the acuteness to see that if these arguments be good for a third term, they are equally good for electing the President for life.

IN ALL the meetings that have been held throughout the State (and at the expense of the State,) in behalf of the new Constitution, not a single argument in its behalf has been urged that has been drawn from the contents of the instrument itself. The great burden of the orators is the "Ring." They want the new Constitution adopted because somebody else is opposed to it, and solely on that ground.

On the other hand, those who oppose the adoption of the new Constitution urge excusively arguments drawn from the instrument itself. They show that it is anti-Republican in form; that it is drawn in slipshod style, is capable of sundry interpretations, and is full of contradictions and incongruities; that it reimposes old taxes from which the people have escaped, puts a mark on their ballots, so that they can be known and detected, and deprives the majority of the right to rule; and that the new government it would impose on us is more costly and troublesome than the present.

This is the real aspect of the case, as presented to-day. There has not a single good argument been adduced in favor of the new Constitution, and a dozen of unanswerable arguments have been adduced against it. The intelligent voter need have no difficulty, therefore, in making his choice.

WE UNDERSTAND that Mr. JOHN PECK made a speech to some of his colored friends, on Sunday night, advising them to vote for the new Constitution.

He gave as a reason that the word "white" had been stricken by the Convention from the qualifications of voters. True; but not as a concession of right. The amendments made to the National Constitution rendered *that* change imperative, and it was made, not because the Convention recognized the equality of human rights, but because it had to be put in to make the Constitution conform to the Constitution of the United States. The colored people have had the right of suffrage secured to them by the nation at large, and have enjoyed it to the full under the *present* Constitution. There is no need of any change in it to meet their case.

But Mr. PECK forgets that an amendment was offered in the Convention to secure to the colored people that equality of rights which Mr. SUMNER's bill in Congress is designed to secure, *and that the amendment was persistently voted down.* The Convention was thoroughly and decidedly hostile to *any* recognition of their rights, beyond what it could not help, and it flung back a haughty defiance into the teeth of the colored men of the State when they asked that their rights should be constitutionally recognized and respected.

For that reason, the colored voters throughout the State are to-day voting against the Constitution. Will the colored men of Pittsburgh be an exception to the rule, and tamely submit to the insult offered them?

CITY COUNCILS held a special meeting yesterday, for the purpose of disposing of unfinished business from previous sessions, as the year is fast drawing to a close. In Select, Mr. MCCARTHY moved to call up the resolution requesting the Water Commissioners to resign, but the Council refused to suspend the rules by a vote of sixteen yeas to thirty-nine nays. The majority of the members were governed by the conviction that it would be premature to take the action proposed; that the subject of the water bonds had been referred to the Finance Committee for investigation; that the Committee were proceeding with due diligence, had not yet finished the investigation, and consequently were not able to report. In other words, the Councils are unwilling to forestall the action of their Committee, and deem it just to await a report before taking further action. Subsequently Mr. MCCARTHY offered a resolution for the appointment of a special committee of five, to examine the books of the Water Commission, from its organization to the present time. This gave rise to quite a lengthy discussion. Col. PHILLIPS moved an amendment, that the Judges of the County Courts be requested to appoint a committee of citizens, of such number as might be deemed proper, to examine into every department of the city finances, from the compromise of the railroad indebtedness down to the present time. He expressed the belief that, in order to satisfy the public, the examination should be conducted by citizens other than members of Councils, as there was a want of confidence in these bodies. He felt satisfied that there was no better governed city in the country, financially considered, than Pittsburgh, and was anxious that the public should see this fact demonstrated at the hands of competent persons of their own selection. After debate, the subject was postponed in order to give the Finance Committee time to report. A committee was appointed to investigate the charges against the Fire Commission relative to exorbitant prices paid for hose for the use of the city.

THE ELECTION TO-DAY.

We trust that every reader of the COMMERCIAL will go to the polls to-day and vote *against* the new Constitution. It is needless now to recapitulate the many reasons why. We have given them fully, and in detail, on previous occasions.

The State has lived thirty-five years under the present Constitution and has grown mightily and prospered under it. The known defects that have been found in it are not numerous, and can be easily removed by amendment under the method prescribed by itself; and there is not a single really good feature in the new instrument that cannot be incorporated into the old, within a few years, if the people wish.

The interests of the State and the people do not, therefore, call for any radical change in our institutions such as the new Constitution provides for; and if such change were at all desirable, prudence and common sense require that it should be made in an intelligible way, and in language so carefully considered and collated as to be free from ambiguity and doubt. The new Constitution has no qualification of this kind. It has been tumbled together with a pitchfork, is full of conflicting sections, employs language of doubtful meaning, and is altogether so ambiguous and confused that its adoption will involve the people of the State in endless litigation, disputes and broils. It will take a generation to define what it really means.

One good and sufficient reason for voting against this instrument is to be found in the fact that it is forced upon us as a whole, when we were entitled to the privilege of voting upon it in detail, and that the public are compelled to vote upon it without opportunity to examine it properly and thoroughly. An election in midwinter, when the roads are almost impassable, and when a full vote is impossible, upon an object of so much importance, is simply an outrage upon the intelligence of the people.

It is no slight thing to be called on to say yes or no to a fundamental law that is to be irrepealable, and which, once adopted, cannot easily be changed. It was due to the voters of the State that they should have abundant time to examine it closely, to discuss it thoroughly, to compare it carefully, and be able to vote upon it intelligently. This right has been denied them. With the instinct of demagogues who were ashamed of their work and afraid to submit it to a fair test, the majority of the Convention chose an early day after their adjournment for its submission, so that they could *sneak* their work through before its faults were detected. This fact, alone, should determine every independent voter to vote against it. It is always safe to vote no, on what you have not been given time to understand.

When this Constitution was first submitted, there was a very general commitment to it, growing out of the general desire for reform; but a careful examination of a few of its provisions has already worked a wonderful change, and every day lately has been adding to the dissatisfaction with it. If the people could have till next March to examine this document, it would be overwhelmingly voted down. The few weeks that have been allowed for examination have sufficed to alarm the thinking and reflecting men of the State, who have been able to give it only partial attention; and the more it is examined the worse it seems to grow. Looked at in the light that only a few weeks' discussion has thrown upon it, the motive for forcing it to an early vote grows plainly apparent. It was to cheat the people into approving an instrument which they could not have time to make themselves acquainted with.

The adoption of a Constitution is too serious a task to be hurried over in this way. The Convention took a year to frame it, and spent half a million of the people's money in the work; yet was unwilling to allow the people more than a few weeks to go over and examine the work which it took a year to frame. The people are entitled to as much time as the Convention took in framing their fundamental law; and that having been denied them, it remains for them only to throw it back upon the hands they received it from, by voting against it. If they vote it down, as they should, the Convention will, when it meets again, be enabled to act more wisely. In the meantime, having been asked to ratify a Constitution blindfolded, the people will show their sovereignty much better by rejecting than by ratifying it. They will thereby teach the demagogues of the State that the people *are* sovereign, and that they will not be imposed upon and misled by a parcel of tricksters who have assumed to themselves powers that were never given them.

THE ANNIVERSARY.

To-day, the sixteenth of December, is fairly entitled to rank as the second, if not the first of the memorable anniversaries in the history of the American nation as well as of Boston. In reference to the American "revolt," Boston was at once the head and the heart of the scattered colonies, the incipient States of the great confederacy. Though at the time a town of only seventeen thousand inhabitants, its geographical position, its commercial relations and the spirit of its citizens united to make Boston in some sense the centre of political influence to the northern colonies at least, and thus it became the scene of those decisive events which marked the development of the revolutionary struggle and determined its character. The destruction of the three hundred and forty-two chests of tea in Boston harbor, on the evening of December 16th, 1773, was one of these events, and one inferior to no other in historical significance. SUETONIUS, in his life of JULIUS CÆSAR, represents him, after he had crossed the little river Rubicon, as saying, "We must go whither the divine omens and the injustice of enemies call us. Let the die be cast." On the 17th of December JOHN ADAMS wrote in his diary, "Last night three cargoes of Bohea tea were emptied into the sea. * * * This is the most magnificent movement of all. There is a dignity, a majesty, a sublimity in this last effort of the patriots that I greatly admire. This destruction of the tea is so bold, so daring, so firm, intrepid and inflexible, and it must have so important consequences, and so lasting, that I can not but consider it as an epoch in history." And in a letter of the same day, the same great leader of the Revolution, in evident allusion to the historical incident mentioned above, said: "The die is cast. The people have passed the river and cut away the bridge. Last night three cargoes, etc. This is the grandest event which has ever happened since the controversy with Britain opened."

It was, in fact, the concluding event of the first or pacific stage of the long dispute between the colonies and the mother country, and no person, whether American or foreigner, can at the present day read the simplest narrative of the controversy without feeling the propriety of the epithets with which JOHN ADAMS, in the enthusiasm of the occasion, characterized the exploit of the patriotic Mohawks. True, the thing destroyed was only tea and the tax resisted was only three pence on the pound; but these circumstances instead of degrading gave elevation and dignity to the cause. As thousands of Fourth of July orators have countless times remarked with thrilling effect, it was the principle involved, the asserted right to impose taxes upon persons not represented, that provoked resistance. This was the preeminent and easily comprehended wrong which engaged the sympathies of able and distinguished Englishmen on the side of the colonists; but behind and apart from this unwarrantable claim there was a long array of injuries which one cannot read of to-day, without wonder at the patience of the victims and at the folly of the statesmen who ruled England in the time of darkness. Thus Lord GRAHAM, a friend of the Americans, declared in Parliament, some years before the Revolution, that "the British colonists of North America had *no right* to manufacture even a nail for a horse-shoe." In those days and long afterwards it was an axiom among English statesmen and the English public that the "colonies existed solely for the consumption of English commodities and for the production of merchantable articles for the English trade." English legislators took absolutely no account of American interests except as they could be made subservient to the interests of the mother country. It is therefore impossible for us to form any adequate notion of the rage, indignation and disgust with which the acts of the colonists prohibiting the importation of British goods were regarded in England.

But these acts soon affected the British pocket so deeply that Parliament, in May, 1773, passed a bill repealing the odious tax on all articles except tea. It was a cunning measure. Had the colonists admitted the tea, with its trifling duty of three pence on the pound, they would thus have conceded the whole question in dispute, as the right to impose a penny implied the right to impose a pound. By refusing the tea they declared their final resolution to stand by their rights at whatever hazards, and thus deliberately put an end to the protracted debate, well knowing that war would be the result of their act. New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, though with less *éclat* and dramatic effect, followed the example of Boston, in which proceeding they were applauded and sustained by the public opinion of the colonies. It is an old, trite story, but it cannot be too well remembered, and the anniversary of the act of the Bostonians of '73 well deserves to be celebrated, not only in the grand old city itself but throughout the country. Among the rites observed on the occasion

"——the cups
"That cheer but not inebriate,"

may with peculiar propriety be made a prominent agency in recalling the self-denial of the patriots who sacrificed to principle three hundred and forty-two chests of the fragrant herb.

PROFESSOR AGASSIZ.

Prof. DE CANDOLLE, of Geneva, in his book—*Histoire des Sciences et des Savants depuis deux Siecles*—points out the remarkable number of men of science who were the sons of Protestant ministers. He names as examples LINNÆUS, HABTSOKER, EULER, JENNER, WOLLASTON, OLBERS, BLUMENBACH, ROBERT BROWN, BERZELIUS, ENCKE, MITSCHERLICH, and many more, among the rest, AGASSIZ. Prof. AGASSIZ's father was pastor at Mottier, in the Swiss Canton Freiburg, where his celebrated son was born on the 28th of May, 1807. Having received a careful education in his native country, he studied during several years at Heidelberg and Munich, where he especially devoted himself to the subjects of comparative anatomy and natural history. His first published work was a description of the fishes of new varieties collected by the celebrated naturalist, SPIX, in Brazil—a labor which may have had some influence in inspiring AGASSIZ's own explorations in Brazil many years afterwards. His second work was a natural history of the fresh water fishes of central Europe, a work which was never completed. His third book was an account of original researches on fossil fishes, and his fourth was a monograph on the fossil fishes of the Devonian system in England. Three or four other books by him, still having fishes for their subject, appeared and made the author favorably known as a naturalist, but his first brilliant success was his work, entitled "Studies on the Glaciers," which was published in 1840. It shed a bright light not only on the subject of glaciers but on the subject of geology, in which latter science the book forms an epoch. In connection with ARNOLD GUYOT, now of Princeton College, and DESOR, AGASSIZ in 1847 published an account of his earlier researches on glaziers, and thus greatly extended his reputation. Unfortunately, however, AGASSIZ in the fullness and frankness of his scientific enthusiasm, had admitted a Scotchman, afterwards known as Principal FORBES, to a sort of partnership in his investigations, and the canny Scot contrived not only to appropriate the credit of some of his associate's previous discoveries, but to make the impression, at least in the British scientific world, that AGASSIZ was trying to become famous at his (FORBES') expense. In fact, AGASSIZ was thus placed under a cloud which has only lately been dispelled through the candor and courage of Professor TYNDALL.

In 1846 AGASSIZ came to the United States, where, during many years, his European reputation, his untiring energy and unquestionable zeal in the cause of science made his name a household word throughout the land. Twenty-five years ago we had few original investigators in science, and the eminent immigrant before long, enjoyed a reputation and a degree of authority comparable to the glory of a giant among pygmies, or of a man with one eye among the blind. It was not the fault of the Swiss savant, who probably claimed for himself no more than was his due; the fault lay with those who ascribed to him more than he claimed or desired. But, the admiration awarded him, no matter how exaggerated or excessive, was rather creditable than otherwise to the citizens of the Republic. It may be, however, that AGASSIZ's popularity interfered somewhat, and perhaps considerably with the advancement of his fame among men of science. In this country he added nothing, we believe, to the reputation as a discoverer which he brought with him from Europe. He, however, extended mightily the knowledge of American natural history, and made vast collections, which may become the materials of future discoveries by other inquirers. As an apostle or missionary of science, his services have been of immense utility, and his labors in exciting and stimulating enthusiasm for knowledge will, doubtless, long continue to bear abundant fruit. His labors in illustration of scientific method in research can hardly be over-estimated. On the other hand, it will always remain a shade on Prof. AGASSIZ's reputation that, in the evil days when slavery was all powerful in this country, he not only sanctioned the system by his doctrine of a plurality of races, and his consideration of the alleged natural inferiority of the negro, affirmed the expediency of slavery. It is painful to remember that AGASSIZ was a contributor to NOTT and GLIDDON's pretentious book on the "Races of Mankind;" a book which was manifestly designed to found human servitude on the basis of profound research and which ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT characterized as the last degredation of science.

THE TAX ON REAL ESTATE

For State purposes, must inevitably follow the adoption of the new Constitution. We know of what we speak when we say that the best legal talent in the State so regards it. The members of the Constitutional Convention deny that such was their intention; but the Courts will deduce their intention from the words they have put into the Constitution, and not from any protestations they may now make. The new Constitution, if adopted, will be interpreted according to the plain meaning of its language, and no intentions of its framers to the contrary can be pleaded against the plain legal meaning of the language employed by them.

HELP THE HELPLESS.

The halt, the maimed, the blind, the deaf and dumb and the idiotic are the wards of the State. It is the duty of the State to see that they are taken care of, and that every provision is made that is necessary for their comfort, and for aiding them to support themselves. Yet the new Constitution prohibits all this. It cuts off all appropriations to charitable purposes. The charitable and the humane should vote against it for that reason, if for no other.

LET EVERY FRIEND OF THE SECRET BALLOT

Remember that a vote to-day, for the new Constitution, is a vote to destroy the secresy and sacredness of the ballot. If it is adopted, every man's vote, henceforth, will be marked for detection. A ballot so numbered as to reveal unerringly who cast it, is no better than an open ballot. *The secrecy of the ballot is the workingman's protection.* Let him be careful that he does not throw it away.

LET EVERY COLORED MAN

Remember that the Constitutional Convention twice deliberately refused to incorporate into the Constitution a provision preventing legal discrimination against them on account of color. To vote to ratify the Constitution, is to vote a sanction of that discrimination.

PERSONAL.

Garibaldi is improving in health, but he still has to use crutches when walking.

Miss Putnam, who went down on the Ville du Havre, was the last lineal descendant of General Israel Putnam, "Old Putnam" of Revolutionary fame.

Mr. Noah Matherney, who lost his position as county clerk at Chicago at the late election, has held that office ever since 1839. His father held it from 1821 to 1839, and, dying, the son was elected.

Baron Rothschild aids, regardless of creed, every chapel, school or almshouse in his own neighborhood in London.

The remains of ex-President Zachary Taylor are to be removed from their obscure resting place in a country churchyard in Jefferson county, Kentucky, to the State cemetery at Frankfort, where at State expense a monument will be erected to the memory of gallant old "Rough and Ready."

President Porter, of Yale College, has just sent to Dr. Payne Smith, Dean of Canterbury, a copy of the famous Syriac manuscript belonging to the college library. Dr. Smith is a profound Syriac scholar, the compiler of a well-known dictionary in the Syriac tongue as it is spoken now in Persia and in the hill country of Kurdistan, and so soon as he came upon this manuscript he recognized its value, and asked for a copy to aid him in this line of study. The manuscript consists of more than four hundred pages, and the transcript was made by Dr. Marsigny. The *College Journal* says that "the copy is neatly done, and has been made, for the Oriental part, with the reed that was used for centuries in Oriental writing."

Mr. Dion Boucicault's modesty is only excelled by his talents. The other evening he incidentally mentioned that he had about decided to write a series of five-act comedies for the purpose of cultivating, or rather re-awakening, a taste for the legitimate drama. He now explains that the egotism of the remark is no fault of his, and that the "bilious journalists" don't know what they are talking about. Melancholy as the fact may be, it is still a fact that there is not a dramatist in England or America whom he can call in to assist him in this onerous but beneficent labor. He is the only living dramatist whom the English-speaking world has been pleased to salute as a worthy successor and legitimate heir of Goldsmith and Sheridan. "I am alone," says the modest but truthful Dion, "It is not a merit to be alone. It is an accident. The 70,000,000 people speaking our language have not furnished me during the last thirty years with a companion." Which is certainly very sad, when one comes to reflect upon it.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Spanish question has got the rumortism, says the Boston *Post*.

The Charge of the Light Brigade—It may be found on gas bills.

It has been discovered at Bloomington, Ill., that the air of a coal mine is a cure and preventive of whooping-cough, and the children of the miners, when attacked with that complaint, are taken down into the shaft, and in a short time are entirely recovered.

Dr. Burdon-Sanderson, in making some experiments on the electrical phenomena which accompany the contraction of the leaves of a sensitive plant, found the currents produced are subject in all respects to the same laws as those of muscles and nerves.

There are said to be between 10,000 and 12,000 laudanum drinkers and opium eaters in the poor districts of New York city; and what is worse, the vice is growing rapidly.

A genteel-appearing loafer addressed an insulting remark to a married lady in Troy the other evening. She had a pail of yeast in her hand, and answered his impertinence with a dash of the lively liquid, which covered him from head to foot.

The Chicago and Alton Railway Company has distributed 1,500 shovels at the stations along its lines to be used in cleaning the track of snow.

They have a new way of "caring for the widows" and widowers in Hollandtown, Wis. Having eleven resident widows and as many widowers, a committee arranged to marry them, pairing them off by lot. The drawing took place on Monday of this week, and eleven marriages are expected to take place this winter.

It is suggested that while the present style continues, ladies should remove their hats at lectures, concerts and other places of amusement, that persons sitting behind may not have the view of stage and platform obstructed by headgear.

The assessed valuation of real and personal property in Wisconsin for purposes of taxation for the year 1873 is reported at $340,620,252, of which amount lands comprise $173,722,343, city and village lots $86,283,961, and personal property $80,613,943. The State indebtedness, bonded and otherwise, amounts to $2,252,057, and the indebtedness of counties in addition to $2,715,670.

Philip Smith lived near Keithsburg, Ill., in a little hut with his wife and her sister. He became the father of ten children, of whom Mrs. Smith was the mother of five and the sister-in-law the mother of the others. In fact, the little ones resembled five pairs of twins. The grand jury thought Mr. Smith's practices were bigamous, and now he, together with his sister-in-law, is in jail, and his wife and the children are in the poor house.

The counsel fees in a bankruptcy case which has been on the docket of the United States Circuit Court in Milwaukee for a long time, were recently cut down by two judges at different times $9,415 and $6,000 respectively. The worthy judges thought the fees excessive, and the number of counsel employed too numerous.

The Graphic balloon was not such a failure as at first sight it seemed. The effects of its Canaan voyage to Europe have not all come to light, for in Litchfield, Conn., there was a deaf and dumb man who upon seeing this immense gas bag, uttered the word "balloon," for a starter, and has been glibly talking ever since.

The fund for a testimonial to the officers of the Tornado has reached $2,200 in Havana. Let some one over here start a burial fund for Burriel, and see how rapidly the funds will flow in.

Goldsmith's "Deserted Village" finds a counterpart in Middleford, Sussex county, Delaware. With the best water power in the State, it used to contain flourishing mills, and ship flour and corn-meal to Europe. The machinery has long been idle, and the thirty houses have for years been given over to bats and owls.

STATE NEWS.

General N. P. Banks will lecture in Mercer on the 22d inst.

Attempts at incendiarism have set the people of Mercer to talking about night police and street gas lamps.

A Mercer county youth, arrayed in his best apparel, started to see his sweet-heart recently and thought to beguile the weary way thither by chasing what he took to be a rabbit. His good clothes were buried quite hurriedly, the next morning and the youth's mother declares he shall not sleep in the house till "that pesky smell" wears off.

Messrs. Gamewell, Gardiner & Burns have contracted with the Harrisburg Council for the introduction of the American fire alarm and police telegraph for $10,000.

There are numerous cases of small-pox in Pottsville.

The Rev. Father Hunt, of Wilkesbarre, an eloquent apostle of temperance, celebrated his eightieth birthday recently.

The storekeepers of Slatington have suffered very severely through the failure of the American Slate Company. The employees of that corporation not having been paid for a considerable time their store bills cannot be met, and the merchants who have been supplying their families have to lose.

One of Charles R. Buckalew's Fishing Creek (Columbia county) constituents went to market, the other day, with a wagon load of hickory nuts. When ask how he sold them, he said: "Two dollars a bushel, or twenty-five cents a peck." Of course everybody bought by the peck, and when the cracker discovered his blunder, his language was not scriptural.

The daily prayer meetings in Lancaster are thinly attended.

The Reading *Times and Dispatch* denies that the project to build a railroad from Phœnixville to Springfield, on the line of the Wilmington and Reading road, and thence to Lancaster, has been dropped.

While the Rev. Jacob Wicklein and a companion were trying to dislodge a rabbit from beneath an old tree, near Port Clinton, Schuylkill county, on the 12th inst., the tree broke into three pieces, one of which fell upon the first named gentleman, injuring him so badly that he died within three minutes.

Officers of the law are after Thomas Moore, brother of Mike Moore, hanged last year, at Ebensburg, for murdering his wife. It seems that Thomas attacked and nearly killed a boy with whom he was working in a coal mine.

Progress is still being made on the Perkiomen Branch of the Reading Railroad. It is expected that the section of the upper end, near Emaus, will be completed in a week or ten days.

In the neighborhood of Hammerly Park, eleven bears have made their appearance in three days' time. Four of these were killed, and the farmers and boys were, at last accounts, on the mountains looking for the others. One of the bears was killed by a man who waded into a stream, and dispatched it with a club, after a long struggle, amid the shouts of men and boys, and the cries of frightened women and young girls.

A Berks county lyceum has discussed the Spanish unpleasantness, and decided in favor of war. Secretary Fish and that other fellow after having gone to considerable trouble to fix things for peace, will regret to hear of this decision.

Mr. Elam Guldin, of Oley township, Berks county, has absconded, leaving behind him liabilities exceeding $55,000. He is nearly up to the spirit of the age.

The Norristown *Herald* says: "The whole line of the Reading Railroad, and every station thereon, from Philadelphia to the coal regions, has for the last few days been closely watched by a whole corps of detectives who board and pass through the cars at almost every station. One man was arrested at Bridgeport on Tuesday, but the detectives are, and properly so, very reticent as to the cause of this extraordinary vigilance."

S. G. Morrison, Esq., of Williamsport, has brought suit for libel against Col. L. L. Tate, editor of the *Sun and Banner*, of that city.

Mr. Charles Schnider, Grand Tyler of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, A. Y. M., died on Friday evening, at about nine o'clock, of congestion of the brain, at the Bingham House, Philadelphia, where he had resided for some time past.

Some of our tobacco growers, says a correspondent of the Lancaster *Inquirer*, are actively engaged at stripping tobacco. The yield of this year was remarkably productive, and favorable prices are anticipated. It is claimed by a great portion of the people in this region that Mount Joy township has produced a superior quality of tobacco, not only in size, but in flavor, and the yield to the acre.

A farmer's boy in Bradford county has killed seventeen skunks, this year.

Over thirty Welsh families of Tioga county are on their way to Europe.

A special telegram from Susquehanna Depot, under date of the 12th inst., says: Seventy children attending school at Oakland, a little village near here, had a narrow escape from suffocation from coal gas on Tuesday morning. The presence of the poison in the air was not known to the teacher until about eleven o'clock, when the smaller children began to drop from their seats to the floor, where they lay unconscious. The teacher then, greatly alarmed, announced the dismissal of the school; but not over half the scholars could get out of their seats, and the remainder rapidly fell into unconsciousness. As quickly as possible they were dragged into the air and laid on the ground. A few of them revived on getting into the air, but twenty-five remained unconscious. A physician was summoned, who succeeded, after long and persistent efforts, in reviving all of them. One little girl was three hours insensible. If they had remained in the schoolroom but very little longer half of them at least would have been past all relief. Several are yet very sick from the effects of the gas. The foul air was driven into the room by the stove-pipe having by some means been jammed against the back of the chimney, preventing draught.

New Publications.

HINTS AND HELPS IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY. By Rev. Wm. S. Plumer, D.D., LL.D. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by Gildenfenny & Hess, Pittsburgh.

The author of this valuable work had practical experience in the pastoral work and his views are therefore not made up of fine spun theories and speculations. These "Hints and Helps" are of the very class that ministers need most to be familiar with in their work. Every department of the work of a pastor is clearly set forth, and a vast source of information is also to be found embodied in it which should be highly appreciated, by young ministers especially, who are seeking light and knowledge to guide them in their pastoral duties. The style is direct, forcible and plain, with very little attempt at mere word painting. The book ought to be widely circulated.

THE MIDSUMMER NIGHTS' DREAM. With illustrations, by Alfred Frederick. New York, D. Appleton & Co., Pittsburgh: R. S. Davis & Co., 175 Liberty street.

The above, from the press of Appleton & Co., is one of the handsomest holiday books of the season. Great credit is due the artist for his skill in catching and presenting so forcibly the grotesque humor of the play, and for the graceful figures and beautiful scenes he has sketched. His drawing of the fairies is particularly felicitous. Mr. Fredericks is also fortunate in his picture of "Nick Bottom," which, while the embodiment of complacent clownishness, is not absurdly exaggerated. Nearly every page of the book is illustrated, which will, with its elegant paper and binding and printing, make it a favorite Christmas gift among those who appreciate Shakespeare.

MATT'S FOLLIES, AND OTHER STORIES. By Mary N. Prescott. With illustrations. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

In this picture of "Matt's Follies," there is couched a vein of instruction and wisdom that relieve some of the foolish actions of poor Matt. Miss Prescott is a favorite with young people, especially with the readers of "Our Young Folks." The lesser stories are delightful reading for young people. The book is attractive for the season.

MEMOIR AND LETTERS OF SARA COLERIDGE. Edited by Her Daughter. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by Gildenfenny & Hess, Pittsburgh.

Few books among the recent publications will compare with this one, because of its intrinsic merits. There is all the charm of romance in its style, and it presents a practical commentary upon persons and events of the day, and it sparkles with bits of wisdom. The observations of the gifted author comprise criticisms on almost every department of thought, and couched in her fascinating style of writing. The book opens with a brief memoir, written by herself in a letter to her daughter; then follows a series of letters from 1833 to 1851. They are models in every respect, both in style, language, purity and culture. Such books deserve a place in every household, and we hope this may be the case.

WILKIE COLLINS'S WORKS. MAN AND WIFE Published by Harper & Brothers, New York. For sale by Gildenfenny & Hess, Pittsburgh.

This volume is one of the series of "Harper's Household Edition" of this novelist's writings. When the romance first appeared it received high encomiums for its striking picture of certain evils in society. The series is as cheap as attractive.

SOUNDS FROM SECRET CHAMBERS. By Laura C. Redden. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

For years the charming poetry of "Howard Glyndon" has commanded the admiration of thousands of readers of magazines and literary journals, for their sweetness and tenderness of expression. In the preface we learn that Miss Redden "in a moment of girlish caprice," adopted this signature. The best of her numerous poems are to be found in this little volume. The opening piece, "Prelibratory," is the key note, then follows "Sweet Bells Jangled," embracing eighty pages of varied measure and sentiment. The shorter poems are real gems—pure in thought, natural in style and full of delicate shades of sentiment.

BRAVE HEARTS. An American Novel. By Robertson Gray. Beautifully illustrated. Published by J. B. Ford & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Whatever else may be said of this romance, it possesses the kind of dash and vim that will attract readers. The story itself is made up of daring exploits such as is nowhere else so vividly developed as on the Pacific slope. It depicts some scenes of thrilling interest, and gives an insight into heart struggles that are to be seen some times in the ruder forms of society. The blending of the culture of the East with the rough and uncouth dialect of early times in California, appear strangely to the reader in these days. The characters are bold and rugged, and match well with the episodes which occurred.

YALE LECTURES ON PREACHING. By Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. Second Series. Published by J. B. Ford & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

This series of lectures was delivered before the Theological Department of Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, with regular course of the "Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching." Immediately after their delivery the religious press commented freely for and against the views of this distinguished minister. However widely the criticisms were, all of them conceded the eminent ability of the lecturer. The eleven lectures present a picture of the Social and Religious workings of the Church in relation to preaching. The rare talents of Mr. Beecher are brought out in these lectures in the clearest and most attractive form.

NORMANDY PICTURESQUE, by Henry Blackburn, author of "Art in the Mountains," etc. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., Boston. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

The chief excellence in this work is that it treats of a part of the country which is frequently slighted by tourists in their haste to visit Paris. The author has thrown quite a charm around the subject, which affords delightful reading to the lovers of the beautiful and antique. The handy size of the volume for reading while traveling, as well as by the fireside, will induce many to read it.

THE CUMBERSTONE CONTEST—By the author of "The Best Cheer," etc. Published by Dodd & Mead, New York. For sale by S. A. Clarke & Co., Pittsburgh.

This is a graphic picture of the scenes of a Cumberstone parsonage in England, and gives a fine illustration of the incidents of a clergyman's inner life. There underlies in the story a vein of religious instruction which cannot fail to impress the young reader. The book is admirably adapted to a Sunday school library.

A GOOD MATCH. By Amelia Perrier, author of "Mea Culpa." Published by J. B. Ford & Co., New York. For sale by R. S. Davis & Co., Pittsburgh.

Without being sensational as some works, there is nevertheless a spirit of daring and improbability about the story, which makes it appear sensational without being such in an objectional form. It is a genuine story of love, and describes the petty doings of friends to build up the fortunes of others, by endeavoring to sacrifice the heroine in marriage—with the intent to make her "a good match." But all the forced phases and traps failed and she was happily rescued and finally married her deliverer, who turned out to be a lord in disguise, and what her friends failed to accomplish, she succeeded in making "a good match."

OHIO NEWS.

The Scioto Valley Telegraph Company has gone up.

The Toledo woman who persists in talking in rhymes is per-verse.

Governor-elect Allen has $30,000 worth of cattle, which he is now shipping to Baltimore, preparatory to closing up the business of his farm.

Thirty-one years ago corn sold in Mansfield for 12½ cents, corn at 10 cents, and wheat at 40 cents per bushel, and dressed hogs for 1 cent per pound.

The press of the State (of both parties) severely condemn and ridicule the proposition to exclude from holding office all those who have any pecuniary interests in railroads, or are employees thereon. It is wrong in principle, and is an invasion of the rights of the people.

East Liverpool will have gas in a few weeks, which she proposes to furnish to the town at two dollars and a half per thousand feet, and the citizens at two dollars and seventy-five cents.

Some statisticians, having little to do have discovered that the little town of Carrollton contained forty-six widows, seven widowers, eighty young ladies, and fifty-one young men all of marriageable age and in the market.

From the *State Journal* we learn that the pork trade in Columbus is brisk. So far this season about 2,000 hogs have been killed at the slaughter house on Third street; 400 will be killed daily hereafter. The force of hands is to be doubled, making eighty in all. This is the regular number, and it is expected that a good business will be done this winter.

DRY GOODS.

DRY GOODS,
FOR
Holiday Presents!
AT
Panic Prices,
AT
McKEE'S.

Furs, Furs, Furs,
For Holiday Presents,
AT PANIC PRICES.

Beautiful Shawls and Cloaks
FOR HOLIDAY PRESENTS,
AT PANIC PRICES!
AT
McKee's.

A great variety of Choice Goods, suitable for HOLIDAY PRESENTS, are now offered at PANIC PRICES, at the GREAT CASH SALE, at
M'KEE'S,
No. 59 Market Street.

WHOLESALE HOUSE
Joseph Horne & Co.
MARKET STREET,
Invite attention to the
Large Additions to Stock,
made during the past week, which will be found
UNSURPASSED
IN VARIETY,
And all at the extreme
LOW PRICES.

DRY GOODS, HOSIERY, GLOVES AND STAPLE NOTIONS of all kinds.

MILLINERY & SILK GOODS.

Wholesale Agents
FOR
Harmony Flannels & Fullerton Yarns.

Special Inducements
TO
Cash and Short Time Buyers.

CARPETS.

THE VALUE OF MONEY HAVING APPRECIATED, IT MORE THAN EVER COMMANDS FAVORABLE INDUCEMENTS AND PRICES.

TO Cash Buyers OF
CARPETS,
OIL CLOTHS, &c.,
WE ARE OFFERING SPECIAL
Bargains
IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.
OLIVER McCLINTOCK & CO.
23 FIFTH AVENUE.

CARPETS.
Winter Stock.
PRICES LOW,
STYLES GOOD,
ASSORTMENT LARGE.
ALL GRADES.
Bovard, Rose & Co.
21 FIFTH AVENUE.

J. & H. PHILLIPS,
Manufacturers and Dealers in
OIL CLOTH, WINDOW SHADES, &c.
Green Sh

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 15, 1873.

The week opens with a better feeling than at the close, money on the street being obtainable at rates reasonable at the present time—quite a number of transactions being reported at rates and in amounts that remind us of anti-panic times. The banks, as far as the public are able to judge, are in a better condition than at any period for a long time, and are cautiously extending their discounts.

We are still treated to a shower of bills in both branches of Congress, intended to make make money plenty—appreciate the value of our paper money, reduce the premium on gold, and to remedy the various evils of the monetary system generally. The favorite hobby of this character, is the subject of the payment of interests on deposits, which, we are told is a very Pandora's box of woes and evils, but the manner of trying to correct the evil is the same error we have so often pointed out—that is, the expectation that a piece of legislative machinery will accomplish what is essentially a matter of morals.

It is not in the power of Congress to convert by statute a rogue into an honest man. Nor a reckless bank officer into a judicious one. The law regulating the rates of interest is a pertinent exemplification of this truth, the design of which in part is to make men honest and prevent extortion, while the effect is simply to make them as much like Shylocks and hypocrites as possible.

There is nothing in the existing necessities of the mercantile world to warrant any addition to enactments of that character.

What really is needed is a quicker and keener sense of the binding force of moral obligations, and a livelier recognition of the old time truth that "honesty is the best policy" in all business and social relations—whether they be financial, commercial or political—and a recognition of the fact that you cannot expect any law to be enacted which can be wound up and put in motion to run perpetually, regardless of the men put in charge of the affairs attempted to be regulated.

The financial editor of the New York *Evening Post* makes the following remarkably terse statement of this interest on deposit question:

Mr. Richardson is sure that the practice of paying interest on deposits by banks is "fraught with danger." He might have said the whole business of banking is "fraught with danger," and that the only effective remedy is to pass a law preventing banking. A banker receives deposits for the profit he can make in lending them, not merely as a benevolent act to depositors. He takes a risk or incurs a danger in lending them. He does not suppose that banking is a nice calculation of risks and dangers, concerning which each banker, knowing his own customers best, has the best facilities for judging. The theory is, that a solvent banker is always able and prepared at a day's notice to pay all his depositors. He engages to do this. Of course it is an impossibility. He is always in danger, remotely, if not immediately, and most imminently in times of panic, of having the possibility of his engagements demanded of him at one time. Could any danger be greater? Why, then, should not banking be prevented by law as a dangerous practice, and bankers be confounded for making false pretenses? A banker is no more able to pay all his depositors at a given time because he does not pay interest on deposits than if he does. He could not do it in either case unless he had been preparing to go out of business. The fact is that paying interest on deposits is only an incidental matter. It is a custom as old as the business of banking, and has, from time immemorial, been practiced in countries where banking is best understood. And yet we have a grand *cacrpa*, in which Washington officials all join, on "the pernicious system of paying interest on deposits," the tune having been pitched here by banks anxious either to increase their profits or to get back business taken by other banks which do pay interest. To say that the cause, or one of the important causes, of the recent panic was the custom of paying interest on deposits, is like a drunken man saying that he was intoxicated by the poison put in his drinks to flavor it, and not by the liquor of which the drinks were made.

At a meeting of the Board of Trade of Cincinnati, held on Saturday last, to consider the question of specie payments and the following resolutions were offered. The second clause of the third resolution we commend, as embodying views often advanced by the COMMERCIAL, which accomplishes the great desideratum of resumption of specie payments without contraction:

Resolved, That while this board recognizes that the resumption of specie standard should be kept constantly in view in all Congressional legislation touching currency and financial matters, it believes that the restoration and maintenance are not practicable now, and should not be attempted until careful and patient preparation has been made and shall have brought about such financial condition that the change from an irredeemable currency to the specie standard will not produce any violent shock or serious derangement of business.

Resolved, That the further inflation of the value of irredeemable currency would be injurious to the country, and retard the restoration of the specie standard.

Resolved, That Congress should amend the National Banking law and prohibit the National banks from paying or receiving interest on deposits subject to check on demand, and should also compel the National banks to hold as part of their reserves the coin interest they receive on their bonds lodged with the United States Treasury Department to secure the redemption of their notes until their reserve in coin shall be at least thirty per cent. of their circulation.

Resolved, That the present national and State taxation of National banks is unduly severe, actually preventing loans at moderate interest, thus injuring producers, manufacturers and merchants, and should be lightened.

Resolved, That whenever the financial condition of the Treasury Department shall warrant the monthly contraction and deduction of a fixed amount of greenbacks, and this provided for by law, the National Banking law amended as suggested in these resolutions, should be made free to all who desire to embark in banking, and comply with its requirements.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 15, 1873.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
Gold	110¾	110⅝	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛	111⅛
Western Union Teleg'h	72¾	73¾	74	74¾	74⅝	73⅝
Pacific Mail			30¾	30¾	30⅝	30¾
Adams Express	96	96	96	96	96	96
Wells, Fargo Express			71¾			
American Express			52			
United States Express			68			
New York Central	95⅝	95⅝	95⅝	96	96	95⅝
Erie			25			
Michigan Central		74¾	75	75	75	75
Michigan Southern	87⅝	87⅝	87⅝	87⅝	87⅝	87⅝
Illinois Central	100		98			
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	97		97			97
Chicago & Northwestern	57	57¾	56¾	56¾	56¾	56¾
Do preferred	71	70¾	70¾	70¾	70¾	70¾
Rock Island	91½	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾	91¾
St. Paul	41¾	42	41¾	41¾	41	41¾
Do preferred	74	74	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾
Wabash		24	23¾	23¾	23½	23½
Do preferred		50				
Fort Wayne	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Ohio and Mississippi	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾	30¾
Union Pacific	31¾	32¼	31¾	31¾	31¾	31¾
Chicago and Alton		93	93			
Boston, Hartf'd and Erie		12½			2⅜	
Marietta					10½	

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even'g
1881, coupons	119	119	119½
5-20s, 1862	113	113¾	114¼
5-20s, 1864	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, 1865, coupons	115¾	115¾	115¾
5-20s, new	118¾	118¾	118¾
5-20s, 1867	118¾	119¼	119¼
5-20s, 1868	118¾	118¾	118¾
10-40s	111¾	111¾	111¾
10-40s, coupons	112	112¾	112¾
Currency 6s	112	112¾	113
New 5s	111¼	111¾	112
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	—	77	80
Tennessees, new	—	79½	80
South Carolinas, July	—	11¼	11¾
South Carolinas, April	—	20	20
Missouri 6s	—	93¼	93

—Robinson Bros., bankers, Fourth avenue, furnish the following report of active stocks at the Philadelphia Board:

Penna R. R.	44¾
Penna. Scrip	96
Reading	25
United Co's N. J.	116
Oil Creek	34¾
Lehigh Valley	58
A. V. R. R. 7-30	88
Central Trans.	40¾
6ths, Cin. & St L. bonds	65

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 15, 1873.

The following are the entire receipts of the leading articles for this market, by river and rail, for the twenty-four hours ending to-day:

Flour, bbls	412	Wheat, sacks	747
Apples, bbls	182	Corn, sacks	1,510
Cheese, boxes	128	Barley, sacks	620
Butter, pkgs	720	Oats, sacks	750
Bacon, pcs	54	Rye sacks	170
Potatoes, bush			

The market opened rather more brisk under the influence of pleasant weather, which rendered outdoor business more agreeable. The grocery market continues excited on sugars and coffees, the former ruling fairly active at a decline and the latter ruling very firm at a still further advance of one dollar per hundred for the roasted article. Flour—Although prices have undergone no change since last and yet the feeling continues very firm at the advance and many dealers report that a further advance is not at all improbable. Provisions—Since the reduction in the card rates, which was noted in our last, the volume of business has sensibly increased. Dealers think prices have now reached the lowest point.

The following are the wholesale prices unless otherwise noted. From store in a jobbing way the usual advance is obtained:

APPLES—The receipts continue limited, and prices are firmer. Sales at $1 50@2 for common to fair and $2 75@4 per bbl for choice to fancy.

APPLE BUTTER—There is a fair seasonable demand, but quotations are unchanged. Sales at 6@9c per gallon.

ASHES—The market continues quiet, with but little doing. The nominal rates are: Soda Ash, common, 3¼@4c; Refined, 5c; Potash, 8c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 5c; Black Lead, 5c.

ALES—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X $ ℔ bbl; XX, $9; finits as $10 ℔ bbl; Imp. English ale, in kinking of 22 gals, $22 10@2 24; bbls, 41 gals, $12 25@4 bbls, 48 gals, $12 50@5 25; in cases, bottles, $2 75; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale, bottles of 4 doz bottles, $3 ℔ doz; Robt. Youngers of sparkling ale $3 ℔ doz; Guinness stouts, bottles, by E. A. Burke, $3 ℔ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ℔ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 25 ℔ doz.

BRANS.—The demand is limited and the market is dull. Sales at 12@2 25 for fair to choice.

BORAX.—Refined 20c ℔ lb.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Market steady; sales per doz ℔ 8 cans, $1 60; ℔ lb do $3 00; 1 ℔ lb do $5 50; ½ cans, $7 60 per dozen.

BROOM CORN—Market quiet with sales red and red topped 5½@6¾; fair to good green 7¾@8¾; fine 9¾@10c ℔ lb.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—Continues quiet, with a supply in excess of the demand; we quote nominally at 4@4½c ℔ lb.

BUTTER—The supply is still very limited, but stocks are ample and prices are steady. Sales at 28@31c ℔ lb for choice roll. Common has no fixed value, and is dull.

CHEESE—The receipts are not so large, but the stock in store is adequate to meet the demand, and prices are steady. We note sales in small lots at 14¾@15c; in car lots at 13½@14¼c, and from Young America 15@15½c; Limburger 15@16c; Sweitzer 16@18c.

DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 5¾@6¼c.

CANNED OIL—The market is quiet and prices are firm. Sales at the works free on cars 11c per gallon, and the usual advance for small lots.

CURB—In good supply with sales at $6@9 per bbl.

CRANBERRIES—The current rates are $10 @ $13 per bbl; $2 50 to $4 per box.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Dealers report sales at $7 50 @8 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL—The supply continues to meet the demands of the market, with sales at $2 ℔ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ℔ cwt; from store.

CRACKERS—Trade continues satisfactory. Prices for the following grades remain firm but unchanged, for the following grades remain firm but unchanged. We quote: Lemon biscuit 11c; ginger snaps 12½c; city crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 7c; water do 7½@8c.

CANDY—We have nothing new to report in regard to this article. Prices were as follows: Benson's Florida ℔ lb 60@2 50; Louisville ℔ 25@2 50; Rosedale ℔ 40@4 50; white lime ℔ 30c; calcined plaster $4 50; land plaster $3 00@3 50.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—The supply are not so heavy, but the market continues moderately active. The decline in the card rates noted yesterday gives a new impetus to trade which is now daily increasing in volume. Below are the current rates: Extra sugar cured hams 13½c; shoulders, extra sugar cured, 9½c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 11½c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 15¾c; bacon shoulders, 8¾c; 10 sides, 8¾c; clear sides, 9¾c; clear sides 10c; mess pork $17 00 per bbl; lard, prime leaf in tierces, 9¾c per lb; prime leaf in half bbls, 10c; prime leaf in buckets, 10½c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9½c; do in half bbls, 10c; do in buckets, 10½c; refined in 3 ℔ cartons, 12c; do in 5 ℔ cartons, 11¾c; do in 3 ℔ pails, 13c; in 6 ℔ pails, 12¾c; ham sausage, 10c.

DRIED FRUIT—The market is rather quiet, with regular sales of peaches and apples at 6@8c for the former, and 10@11c per ℔ for the latter.

EGGS—The receipts continue light and prices are very firm, with sales at 28@35c ℔ dozen for pickled, and 30@32c ℔ doz. for strictly fresh.

FISH—Prices remain unchanged. We quote: No. 1 extra mess mackerel $16; No. 1 mess do, $13; extra No. 1 shore mackerel, $12; No. 1 shore mackerel, $10; extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $19; No. 1 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $11; No. 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $8 50 $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ℔ 100; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 ℔ 100; red herring, scale 50c ℔ box; No. 1 $5 ℔ quartz and quantity.

FEATHERS—There is little or nothing doing and can be quoted at 58@59c ℔ lb; No. 2 C, 54@55; mixed common, 50@54c; Reduced, 5c; Pulled, 56; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 5c; Black Lead, 5c.

ALES—The market is firm, with a fair demand. The card prices are as follows: X $ ℔ bbl; XX, $9; finits as $10 ℔ bbl; Imp. English ale, in kinking of 22 gals, $22 10@2 24; bbls, 41 gals, $12 25@4 bbls, 48 gals, $12 50@5 25; in cases, bottles, $2 75; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale, bottles of 4 doz bottles, $3 ℔ doz; Robt. Youngers of sparkling ale $3 ℔ doz; Guinness stouts, bottles, by E. A. Burke, $3 ℔ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ℔ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 25 ℔ doz.

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New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 111¾.

NEW YORK, December 15, 1873.

MONEY

easy at 6@7 per cent.

STERLING

strong and higher, with actual business at 109 for sixty days, and 109⅞ for sight. Customs receipts $329,000.

GOLD

active and buoyant, advancing from 110¾ to 111¾, closing at 111¾. An inflation is at the bottom of the present movement, although the rise was stimulated by the operations of the bull clique. Loans were at 3@7 for carrying. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $265,000. Clearings $42,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

strong and higher, the demand active and supply light.

U. S. coupons, 1881	19½	5-20's, '67	18¾
5-20's, '62	14¾	5-20's, '68	18¾
5-20's, '64	15¾	New 5's	12
5-20's, '65	16	10-40 's	11¾
5-20's, '65, new	18¾	Currency 6's	13

STATE BONDS

quiet.

Missouri	93	Virginia, old	34
Tennessee, old	79¼	North Carolina, old	24
Tennessee, new	80	North Carolina, new	14
Virginia, new	40		

STOCKS

were strong in the morning and weak and lower during the afternoon. Fluctuations ranged between ¼ and ⅝ per cent., and represented a large business, particularly in Union Pacific, Western Union, Lake Shore, Wabash, St. Paul, Northwest common, Cincinnati, Chicago and Indiana Central, and Pacific Mail. The latter declined from 40¾ to 39¾ on the story that one of the Company's steamers was over due. The general market left off weak on telegrams from Washington, that the Committee on Ways and Means would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to issue a temporary loan bearing a low rate of interest after the reserve was exhausted, instead of issuing more greenbacks. Sales to-day between ten and two o'clock aggregated 198,000, the largest transactions being in shares above mentioned.

Canton	63	St. Paul preferred	65¾
C., C., I. & L.	74½	Wabash	59¾
Quicksilver	26	Do preferred	79
Adams Express Co.	92	Fort Wayne	89
Wells, Fargo & Co.	72½	Terre Haute	6¾
American Express	48	Do preferred	25
U. S. Express	68	Chicago & Alton	101¾
Pacific Mail	39¾	Do preferred	116
N. Y. Central	95¾	Ohio & Mississippi	30¾
Erie	43¾	Cleve., Col. & Cin.	74
Erie preferred	70	Bur. & Quincy	94¾
Harlem	122¾	Lake Shore	78¾
Harlem, pfd. can't quote,		Panama	98½
Michigan Central	95	Illinois Central	98
Pittsburgh	83¾	Union Pacific	30¾
R. W. C.	55½	Central Pacific	89½
Do preferred	70	Union	85¾
Rock Island	93¾	Hartford & Erie	2¾
N. Y. Central	104½	Del. Lack.	101
St. Paul	40¾	Banker's bills	9¾

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, December 15, 1873.

FLOUR—Steady and in moderate demand; No 1 spring $5 25@5 50; No 2 do $4 75@5 00.

GRAIN—Wheat—Demand active and prices advanced; No. 1 spring, $1 19¾; No 2, $1 13¾ cash, $1 17¾@1 18 seller December, $1 18¾ seller January, $1 22 seller February; No 3, $1 08¾; rejected, $1 03. Corn—Demand fair and prices advanced; No 2 nominal 54¾@ seller January, 55¾@56c seller February; rejected, 52@54½c; new do 50c. Oats—Demand good at full prices; No 2, 39¾@ spot; 39¾@ old seller January. Rye quiet; No 2 at 84c. Barley—Demand fair and market firm; fall No 2, $1 42; No 3 fall $1 40.

PROVISIONS—Dull. Pork $14 62½. Lard dull and lower at 8¾@ spot, 8¾@8¾c seller January. Bulk Meats—Medium, boxed, $10; medium half obvs, $9 50; half bbls Boston mixed, $8 00; plnts, plain or mixed, per dozen, $1 50; quarts, plain or mixed, $2 50; half gallons, plain or mixed, $4 50. Hexagon gallons, mixed, $6; English civic chow chow, pints, $4 50; English civic chow chow, quarts, $6 00; English mixed pickles, pints, $3 00; English mixed pickles, quarts, $5 00; English cauliflower, pints, $3 00; English cauliflower, quarts, $5 00; English pickles, pints, $3 75; English gherkins, pints, $3 75; English gherkins, quarts, $6 50; English Motussli, pickles, pints, $4 50.

POTATOES—There is a steady demand for prime Peachblows, which are in full supply, and prices are firm at 60@65c ℔ bush; carlots, 55@60c; other kinds, 40@45c; Early Rose, 50@55c; Burbanks, 50@55c; Snowflakes, 50@55c; Hebrons, 45@50c; Carters, 45@50c; Peerless, 45@50c; Prolifics, 45@50c; Mammoth Pearls, 45@50c; Jackson Whites, 45@50c; Early Goodrichs, 45@50c; Early Vermont, 45@50c; Early Ohios, 45@50c; Garnet Chilis, 45@50c; Peachblows, 45@50c; Rose, 45@50c; Beauty of Hebron, 45@50c; Early Rose, 45@50c; Burbanks, 45@50c; Snowflakes, 45@50

CITY MATTERS.

To Agents of the Commercial.

The banks of this city having resolved not to receive country sight checks or drafts from depositors or correspondents at par, agents of the COMMERCIAL, in making remittances, will please do so with drafts on Pittsburgh or New York, money orders, or by registered letters.

Corporate Title Changed.

A decree of Court, changing the name of the Marietta and Pittsburgh Railroad Company to the Marietta, Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railway Company, has been filed with the Secretary of the State of Ohio.

Mortuary Reports.

There were fifty-one deaths in Pittsburgh for the week ending December 13, of which thirty-three were males, and nineteen females. In Allegheny there were seventeen deaths for the week, of which seven were males and ten females.

Donations Returned.

Major Hartzell, Mayor's Clerk, yesterday handed over to Captain Gray a donation of $42 06, received from the blacksmiths and helpers at the Outer depot, Allegheny, in aid of the Memphis sufferers. As the money was received after the Committee had closed its account, and after notice that no further aid was needed, Captain Gray ordered the money to be returned to the donors.

Another Shocking Accident.

Another shocking accident occurred yesterday afternoon, resulting in the instant death of a young man named Conbay, twenty-one years of age and a resident of the Thirty-fourth ward, late Union borough. Conbay was acting as flagman for his brother on Hezzard's coal train of dump cars. When near Jones' Ferry, and they were switching off upon the siding, the unfortunate young man was knocked off a car and run over. His body was almost cut in two, and distressing to relate the occurrence took place within sight of the young man's home. An inquest will doubtless be held to-day.

Conductor Attacked by Gamblers.

Three gamblers, named Cooper, Hamilton and Frazer, boarded the Fast line, East, Friday night, at Altoona, and soon commenced a game of three-card monte. Mr. Ed. Chase, conductor, attempted to stop them, when they drew their revolvers and drove them out of the car. At Huntingdon the trio left the train and returned to Tyrone, where they were arrested on Saturday morning, taken back to Huntingdon, and committed to prison. Later in the day they were given a hearing before Esquire Murray, but none of the witnesses called could swear positively that pistols had been drawn. However, they were each held in three hundred dollars to answer the charge of gambling, at the January term of the Huntingdon county Court. Not being able to secure bail the party was remanded back to prison. Cooper and Frazer hail from Chicago, and Hamilton from Pittsburgh.

Another Disputed Will.

John Swords, late of Shaler township, left a will, in which he bequeathed all his estate to his wife Rachel, to hold until she re-marries, when in such case the bequest is to become void and she is to receive only what the intestate laws of the State allow her. At the death of the wife the farm in Shaler township, of one hundred and sixty acres, is to go to Henry Stroup and Adeline Cooper, share and share alike. Barbara Huber, of Christian Huber, is to receive $100; Mary Morrow, daughter of George Morrow, $150; Ellen Carson, daughter of Jas. and Mary Carson, $100; and his namesake, John Swords Elliott, $100. Samuel H. Swords, J. L. Elsessor and John Herron are executors. Yesterday, Samuel and Robert Morrow filed a caveat against the admission of the will to probate, and an additional caveat was filed by Mary and Martha Morrow, Emily McDonald and Jane Cooper. The grounds of the protests have not as yet been made known.

The Damage to the Pumping Works.

It is gratifying to learn that the damage to the new pumping works (or rather the foundations for the same), at Negley's run, will not exceed $500. No injury at all has been done to the stone work. Mr. Lowry, the mechanical engineer (who had had charge of the work since the contract of Mr. Douglass was annulled by the city), having fortunately succeeded in getting the work above high water mark previous to the flood of Sunday. There is quite a breach across the upper part of the coffer dam, which is being filled up as fast as the water recedes. Mr. Lowry thinks that not more than three or four days time will be lost. Three of the derricks are damaged, and a crane-boat floated off, which will probably be recovered. Should the river continue to fall as rapidly as it has been falling, the work of pumping out the water will be commenced to-day. Mr. Lowry took charge of the work about two months ago, and has made remarkable progress during that time. About one month was required to finish the excavation, and during the balance of the time about two thousand perches of stone have been laid. It is fortunate for the city that they took the work out of the hands of the contractor at the time they did.

Dining Rooms for the Poor.

In anticipation of greater suffering than usual among the people this winter, suggestions of relief are plenty in all the large cities, where want is soonest felt. An Albany lady advances a proposition that seems a practical one, which is that a few benevolent persons should defray the expenses of a dining room, where a dinner of beef, bread and potatoes could be had for perhaps six cents by people who would rather pay, giving food, however, to those who had not the means to buy even at that reduced price. Such an institution has reduced beggary in Glasgow nearly fifty per cent, and probably crime as much. European countries, which have had more need of organized aid than this in most years, have doubtless reduced their systems to greater efficiency. In Christiana the capital of Norway there is reported what is called a "steam kitchen eating house," established by an association of benevolent gentlemen, where food in large quantities is prepared and sold at cost for the benefit of the poor and the laboring class generally. Many families are provided with all their food in this way, and the demands of pure charity are also met by private parties who purchase large numbers of tickets for the needy. In one year there have been served over 500,000 meals, 150,000 sold to be carried away. Nearly 200,000 pounds of fish and meat were used in a year, over 16,000 loaves of bread, and other substantials to correspond. Some such depot of supplies might be established in our large cities with profit to all classes.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

Mr. Byron was on hand at the Opera House last evening, according to announcement, and was greeted by a very large number of his old admirers. "Across the Continent" was well given and received. The odor of gunpowder and the supposititious Indians seem out of place in this beautiful theater, but we must add that the presence of Mr. Byron and his life-like rendering of the character are amply compensatory, if they do not quite atone for the letting down of the Opera House standard. The cast is full and good throughout. "Across the Continent" will be repeated this evening.

Trimble's Varieties.

There was a big crowd here last night, to see and hear the new aspirants for favor. Mr. E. D. Davis, the ventriloquist, is a wonderful performer, and astonishes all by his skill in "throwing his voice." There is no risk in saying that he is the best of all performers in this line. The entertainment is a good one as well worth hearing. The bill was a first-rate one from beginning to end, and reflected credit on Stage Manager Williams. It will be repeated this evening. Matinee to-morrow afternoon.

Library Hall.

The audience gathered at this hall, last evening, to greet Cal. Wagner and his fellow-laborers in the field of minstrelsy, was fair in size, and of excellent material. The performance was a good one, embracing a number of the latest songs, all of which were given with fine effect, and well received by the auditors. The jokes were fresh—many of them impromptu—and caused much merriment. The songs and dances of Green and Sadler—were equal to the best ever given here. Wagner's plantation melodies, "essence" dance and oration were capital, as every one had a right to expect they would be. Mr. J. G. Wagner played a guitar solo, and played it well, too—something seldom accomplished. The performance wound up with a very funny extravaganza, "The American Washerwoman on Cuba," in which Wagner, Price, Booker and all the comedians participated. Taken as a whole, the entertainment compared more than favorably with any which have preceded it. The troupe will appear again this evening, when the bill will be changed.

NATION TRUST COMPANY.

Meeting of the Depositors.

A meeting of the depositors of the Nation Trust Company was held at the Ralston school house last evening, Mr. Peter Zern occupying the chair, and Mr. F. E. Kramer acting as secretary. The proposition made by the stockholders to the depositors was discussed at considerable length by Messrs. Follansbee, Little, Aiken of the Finance Committee; Dr. John Douglass, Jacob F. Slagle, William Byrnes and John H. Kerr, depositors, and Mr. John H. McKelvey, Chairman of the stockholders' meeting. The inexpediency of forcing the company into bankruptcy, and the policy of accepting their proposition was maintained by all the above-named speakers. After discussion, a motion was offered to the effect that the proposition be accepted by the depositors. Mr. William Byrnes offered an amendment changing the proposition so that the first payment be made in six months instead of twelve, which was lost, when the original motion was voted on and unanimously carried.

On motion, the meeting proceeded to the nomination and election of five depositors as a committee to act in conjunction with the sub-committee of the Finance Committee, in examining the bonds and looking after details of the company this morning. Ald. O'Donnell and Messrs. John H. Kerr, Thomas Rosewell, Peter Zern and William Byrnes were elected.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Earnest Discussion in Select.

The Finance Committee Sustained.

Special Committee to Examine and Report on the Conduct of the Fire Department—The McCandless Avenue Ordinance Defeated.

An adjourned meeting of the Pittsburgh Councils was held yesterday afternoon. The interest centered in the Select branch where, it was expected there would be lively times regarding the water bond question. There was no report from the Finance Committee but an earnest and interesting discussion occurred on the question appointing a special committee to examine the accounts of the Water Commission from its organization. It will be seen from our report that the operations of the Board of Fire Commissioners are to be examined.

SELECT COUNCIL.

Unfinished business was taken up, being papers acted upon in Common Council, and in all matters there was concurrence.

The ordinance authorizing the Fire Commission to provide for protection to the South Side districts was taken up.

Mr. Riddell asked whether there was any restrictions on the Commission as to contracts, requiring it to advertise for proposals for supplies, and award contracts to the lowest and best bidders.

Mr. Aiken said that he understood that the ordinance simply authorizes the Board of Commissioners to provide apparatus, etc., for the protection of the South Side.

Mr. Riddell thought it was a good time to have a provision inserted compelling the action stated; He made a motion to that effect and, as amended, the ordinance was passed finally. In C. C. laid over.

THE CITY ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

When the petition of City Engineer Dempster, asking the appointment of a committee to investigate the charges made against him by Mr. Kirk was taken up for concurrence with Common Council,

Mr. Kirk offered the following amendment:

Resolved, That the Mayor be directed to take the testimony and investigate the charges made by David Kirk upon A. Dempster, and if he has not power to formally settle the same that he report the facts to Councils.

On this Mr. Kirk took the floor and spoke of the charges he had made. He would say say frankly that he would not appear before an investigating committee, as we had evidence the past three weeks that witnesses were intercepted by outsiders and others just when the main of important points are being reached.

Mr. Aiken called the gentlemen to order and claimed that Mr. Kirk was reflecting upon the Finance Committee.

Mr. Kirk denied this and was allowed to proceed. He said that there had been too much trifling in the way of investigations and had been of no effect. The speaker read from the city code, showing that the Mayor has power to act upon the complaint made before him.

Mr. Pearson hoped that the action of Common Council would be concurred in, and the committee appointed.

Mr. Riddell held that under the law the Mayor had the same powers as a committee.

Mr. Kirk quoted the city code, showing that the Mayor had power to fine and remove for neglect of duty. [Applause from the lobby.]

The question on the amendment was lost, and the action of Common Council was concurred in.

THE WATER COMMISSIONERS.

Mr. McCarthy moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of taking up the bonds given by members of the Water Commission to resign. The motion was put and lost.

Mr. McCarthy demanded the ayes and nays, which being granted were taken as follows:

Ayes—Messrs. Brown, Dorrington, Darling, Elder, Foster, Hays, Jeremy, Kernan, Kirk, Lally, Murray, McCarthy, O'Neil, Rafferty, Thompson, Zorn—16.

Nays—Messrs. Adams, Ahl, Aiken, Atkinson, Atterbury, Brown, Chalmer, Chess, Dannells, Dietrich, Doyle, Duncan, Fetterman, Froelich, Hann, Herron, House, Hubley, Hunter, Jones, Kline, Liddell, Livell, Littell, Marshall, Montooth, McCandless, McGarg, McCune, McDonald, Pearson, Phillips, Rayburn, Riddell, Scully, Seely, Smith, Waring, Gross—39.

Excused from voting—Messrs. Burgwin, Laufman and Wats n.

So the motion was lost.

Several members explained that they voted no because they thought it proper to await a report from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Kirk voted aye because he believed the commissioners should be sustained or turned out.

The resolution authorizing the stationing of a policeman on Morningside and Stanton avenues was referred to the Police Committee.

Mr. Aiken moved to reconsider the action previously taken on the ordinance providing for a change of grade of Wylie avenue.

Mr. Jeremy [illegible], but it was decided in order, and the ordinance was read.

The motion to reconsider was lost by a tie vote.

The ordinance for the opening of McCandless avenue, came up on second reading.

Mr. Pearson objected, and addressed Council in opposition.

Mr. Kirk spoke in favor, and stated that the majority of those interested had asked for it, while the First Committee had unanimously recommended it.

Mr. Riddell and Mr. McCune spoke against the ordinance, and were replied to by Mr. J. H. Jones in favor.

Mr. Jones, in reply to an insinuation from Mr. Pearson that he (Jones) was defeated on account of this McCandless avenue question, said that it was erroneous, as his opponent, Mr. Bissell, had been elected with the distinct understanding that Mr. B. was in favor of this and other street improvements.

The motion to finally pass the ordinance was put and lost.

The communication from the Fire Commission and the resolution passed by C. C., for the appointment of a special committee to investigate the accounts, and certain charges made against the Board, was taken up and the action of C. C., concurred in. The Chair appointed Messrs. McCarthy and Chalmers in the part of S. C.

Mr. Kirk moved that when we adjourn we adjourn to meet next Monday, at ten o'clock, A. M. for the special consideration of the Water bond question. Carried.

Mr. McCandless presented a communication from the Board of Health, informing Councils of their action with reference to the purchase of a hospital site, and requesting an appropriation for the payment for the same. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. McCarthy took leave to present the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a special committee of five, two from select and three from Common Councils shall be appointed to examine into and investigate all the transactions and business of the Water Commission, its officers, and agents of whatever kind or description, and examine witnesses under oath, and have power to engage such experts and assistants as they may deem necessary to carry out the purpose of their appointment, any resolution or resolutions or part of resolutions conflicting with this is hereby repealed.

Resolved, That the Mayor is hereby requested to issue subpœnas and compulsory process to compel the attendance of such persons and the production of such books and papers as the committee may deem necessary.

Mr. Phillips thought the matter premature, but as it has been presented, he would make a motion now, which he had intended to bring forward at a future meeting. He moved to amend that the county judges be requested to appoint a committee of ten or twelve, or any other number of citizens, to examine into the entire affairs of the city, from the time of the railroad bond troubles.

Mr. McCarthy objected to the matter as being unnecessary and unwise.

Mr. Phillips wanted outsiders appointed by the courts, so that there may be a full and complete showing to the people of the whole or the city affairs. Such a showing as would be taken as honest and correct. [Applause.]

Mr. McCarthy said he objected to the amendment because there was no authority for such action. He believed men here are as honest and capable men as those upon the bench, although the latter are nicely dressed in the ermine of the law. Every man in Councils swears to do his duty honestly and faithfully, and there is no cause to distrust them.

Mr. Phillips: I do not take issue with the gentleman on the question of there being good men here; but the people do not believe it, and, consequently, I favor the selection of men not identified here.

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Mr. Phillips: I do not take issue with the gentleman on the question of there being good men here; but the people do not believe it, and, consequently, I favor the selection of men not identified here.

And I would say that no cost for investigations from the Railroad bond question down, including every department of the city government, if there be such, but would be cheap at the cost, from the cases already settled.

Mr. Waring thought that the end of the present Council being but a year clear at hand, it was unwise to have a committee appointed as suggested by Mr. McCarthy.

Mr. Phillips, in the course of further remarks, said: I do not think there is a city in the United States that has been as unwisely governed as Pittsburgh, and I want the whole business thoroughly investigated and sifted to the bottom. Whatever may have been done wrong let it be condemned, and let the good be approved.

Mr. Lutes stated and remarked that Mr. McCarthy's resolution and remarks were inconsistent and reflected upon the Finance Committee. He says by the resolution that a special committee ought to be appointed, and then he says that there are as good men here as anywhere, and that they are all under oath.

Mr. Rafferty favored Mr. Phillips' amendment. He did not agree with the gentleman as to his good opinion of the Water Commission. The speaker thought there are gentlemen in the Finance Committee who are mixed up in the matter, and should have nothing to do with an investigation such as that under way.

Mr. McCarthy replied to Mr. Littell, and said his object was to relieve the Finance Committee, which was now with its hands full. He thought that the appointment of an outside committee would cause delay, and probably no report could be obtained short of a year.

Mr. Kirk stated that for public satisfaction it was necessary that an "outside" committee should be appointed and make a thorough examination.

Mr. Kirk made an earnest appeal for prompt action, that the credit of the city may be recovered. He held that serious damage had been done it on account of this business, and it was necessary to show up the guilty. There had been too much delay in the matter.

Mr. Pearson favored an outside committee, and censured those who are so anxious to cry thief and so hurriedly condemn men.

Mr. Doyle, who, during the discussion, moved to lay the matter over until the report of the Finance Committee was received, called the question and the motion was carried.

The consideration of business from the Common Branch was then continued, and without taking up any further new business, Select Branch adjourned until Monday next.

COMMON COUNCIL.

A quorum being present, the Council proceeded to business—Major Negley, president, in the chair.

The first thing in order was hearing reports of standing committees which had not been reached at last meeting.

Mr. Carroll presented report of the Monongahela Wharf Committee, which was received and filed.

Mr. McConway, resolution to transfer $700 from Bridge to street appropriation. Passed.

Viewers report on sewer and properties of P. McQuillan and John Griffin, from Colwell street to Fifth avenue sewer. Approved.

THE FIRE COMMISSION INVESTIGATION.

Mr. McConway presented a communication from the Fire Commission preferring to certain charges preferred against them by an evening newspaper, with a resolution asking the Finance Committee to investigate the charges. [The resolution has already been published.]

Mr. Semple moved to accept the report, which was agreed to, and then moved to amend by appointing a committee of seven from Select and three from Common Council, to investigate said charges. Carried. Messrs. Semple, McConway and Finey appointed on part of Common Council. Select Council concurred, and appointed Messrs. McCartney and Chalmers.

THE PROTEST AGAINST MR. BOUCHER.

The communication from Mr. Nimick and others, protesting against the election of Mr. J. A. Boucher as a Commissioner for the improvement of Grandview avenue, was called up.

Mr. McConway moved the appointment of a committee of five to investigate the objections. Agreed to, and Messrs. Boyce, Langhran and Wilbert were appointed on behalf of Common Council. S. C. concurred.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Mr. Campbell moved that the grade of Forty-second street be referred back to the Survey Committee. Carried.

Mr. Maple moved to reconsider the motion made at last meeting recommitting to the Survey Committee the ordinance establishing the grade of Stanton avenue.

After some debate, the motion was lost by a vote of 11 yeas to 17 nays.

Several petitions relating to buildings were referred to the Building Inspector.

Mr. Bradley offered a resolution requesting Joseph Keeling & Co. to place flagging at the intersection of their coal railway at Twenty-first and Carson, and Twenty-first and Sarah streets.—Passed.

Also, resolution directing the Market Committee to fit up the South side market hall, with proper appliances, so that it can be rented for entertainments, etc. Adopted.

Also, a resolution instructing the Ordinance Committee to prepare an ordinance prohibiting prostitutes from forestalling in the South side market during market hours. Referred to Market Committee.

Mr. West, an ordinance regulating the running of cars on Fourth avenue—the cars not to be run at a faster gait than a walk for a distance of at least twenty feet on each side of Smithfield street, so as to prevent accidents. Referred to Railroad Committee.

Mr. Semple, petition for sewer on Clark's alley and Clark street, Eleventh ward. Received and filed.

Also, a resolution directing the Street Committee to prepare an ordinance for placing the sewer under contract in 1874. Passed.

SURVEY REPORT.

Mr. Fleming, the following business from the Survey Committee:

Ordinance relocating Stanton avenue, from Butler street to Hiland avenue, at a width of sixty feet. Passed.

Plan of the intersection of Stanton and McCandless avenues. Approved.

THE PEST HOUSE SITE.

Mr. Duff, resolution directing the City Solicitor to prepare the draft of an act providing for the repeal of the right granted to the Board of Health to purchase ground as a site for a pest house.

The City Solicitor, by request, stated that the Board of Health had contracted for a site months ago, for the sum of $40,000.

Mr. Fleming suggested that Mr. Duff opposed the pest house because the location selected was in the Thirteenth Ward.

Mr. Duff stated that the city did not need a pest house, and it would be better to back out of the contract at a cost of $10,000, than to go on with the purchase of the ground and the erection of buildings, at an aggregate cost of $100,000.

Dr. Arnholt and Dr. Arensburg advocated a pest house as necessary, both as a sanitary and a humanitarian measure.

Mr. Jones opposed the pest house as an unnecessary expense, and the location as improper.

Mr. Fulton stated that all the owners of the land had to do, was to tender a deed to the Board of Health, and the contract was at once voluntarily executed the city could be sued.

Mr. Follansbee was opposed to a pest house, from beginning to end. The hospitals now in the city were ample to accommodate all cases likely to occur in the city from pestilent diseases. He was not in favor of violating the contract, however, at a heavy loss to the city.

Mr. Fulton moved an amendment, as follows, That the resolution be referred to the City Solicitor, to report to Councils whether the city would be bound to pay for the ground. Agreed to, and the matter was so referred.

After concurring in some business from the other Branch, Council adjourned.

THE CITY ENGINEER.

The Complaint of Mr. Kirk—The Charges and Specifications.

Mayor Blackmore having consulted his counsel regarding the complaint formally presented to him by David Kirk, Esq., member of Select Council against City Engineer Dempster, yesterday submitted the charges to Councils for action, accompanied by a communication from which we take the following:

Upon examination of the various allegations and because of so many informations having been made, I herewith, as required of me by section 50th of an act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, entitled, "A further supplement of the acts incorporating the city of Pittsburgh," etc., approved April 6, 1867, make report thereof, accompanied with said complaint, charges and specifications, in order that your honorable bodies shall take such action as shall to you seem meet and proper, all of which is respectfully submitted.

The charges, as set forth in Mr. Kirk's communication, are as follows:

First Charge—That he has received moneys for the services of himself and other employees of the city of Pittsburgh, which he ought to belong to said city, and that he has not made monthly returns thereof to the city treasury, or otherwise accounted for the same as he is bound in law to do, and I hereby specify the names of persons from whom received, and amounts and time of receipts as follows:

1—From Commissioners of Ellsworth avenue improvement, July 21, 1873.....$300 00
2—From Commissioners of Neville street, July 18, 1873..... 470 00
3—From Commissioners of Butler street, July 18, 1873..... 500 00
4—From Commissioners, Edgeworth avenue, September 14, 1873..... 300 00
5—From Commissioners, Forbes street, September 14, 1873..... 500 00
6—From Commissioners, Butler street, September 13..... 300 00
7—From Commissioners, Highland avenue, September 13..... 150 00
8—From Commissioners, Ellsworth avenue, November 13..... 400 00
9—From Commissioners, Forbes street November 13..... 300 00
10—From Commissioners, Highland avenue, November 13..... 650 00
11—From Commissioners, Laughlin street, July 29..... 50 00

Second—I hereby charge that on or about September 4, 1873, being at the time in the employ of the city, he was guilty of misconduct in accepted the position of Engineer to the Commissioners of Liberty avenue improvement at a salary of $2,500 per annum, and performed the duties of said position until October 3d, 1873, when he caused the name of William Howat to be substituted in his stead.

Third—I charge, being City Surveyor of the city of Pittsburgh, he did, without the consent or interest of said city, he has organized a corps of engineers outside and independent of the city authorities, for the purpose of doing work for said city which should be done by the City Engineer and the employees under him, and that the pay of said corps is charged as part of the city expenses of public improvements in said city and is a tax upon the citizens of the city and greatly enhances the cost of said improvement.

Fourth—I charge that, being City Engineer of the city of Pittsburgh, and bound to give his entire time and attention to the duties of said office, for which he receives a full compensation, he has created and has under him a corps of engineers outside and independent of the city authorities, and gives a large amount of his time and attention thereto, and neglects the legitimate duties of his office.

Fifth—I charge that in the violation of the ordinance of July 27th, 1872, relieving the City Engineer from the duty of regulating lots in the city of Pittsburgh, he has created the right to regulate lots and used the employees of the city of Pittsburgh for that purpose, and has made no returns of the fees of the same to the city.

Sixth—That about the ——— day of May, 1873, he undertook to regulate the lot of Dr. Evans, on Hiland avenue, and gave said Evans a grade location and stake, for which he was induced to build upon said street, and now claims indemnification to the city for damage done.

Press of business prevented the taking up of the matter in Select Council yesterday, although the paper was in the hands of the clerk.

THE WASHINGTON SCHOOLS.

Close of the Evening Session—An Agreeable Affair.

The evening session of 1873, of the Washington district (Seventeenth ward) schools closed last night with an agreeable entertainment at the handsome building on Fortieth street. The intellectual portion of it was an interesting exhibition by the pupils, while an enjoyable supper was provided by the ladies for the boys and girls and friends of the school. At an early hour, the pupils to the number of one hundred, assembled in the building, and shortly before eight o'clock were marched in excellent order, and looking their prettiest, to the fine hall where the exercises were to take place, under the direction of the popular principal Mr. Nell Duncan. The programme of the evening was opened by several young Misses singing in a beautiful manner, a piece entitled "Do They Miss Me at Home." Miss Maggie D. Black, one of the accomplished lady teachers, at the organ.

Prof. Duncan next gave an interesting account of the progress of the night school during the winter, which ought to be, and is being celebrated, stating that the attendance of scholars had more than doubled since last winter, while there was just twice the number of teachers. Altogether the friends of night schools had reason to feel encouraged at the progress made, and the lasting benefits received by those who had attended them.

Rev. J. G. Thompson, D. D., was now introduced, who made a brief and appropriate address, especially impressing upon his young hearers the necessity of improving to the best advantage, little fragments of time. Dr. B. was happy in his illustrations, and his remarks were well received.

Prof. Duncan, as speaker resuming his seat, was about to announce the next feature of the entertainment, when he was interrupted by Master William Davies, who, on behalf of his fellow-scholars, presented in a neat and creditably delivered speech, to the Professor, a pair of beautiful silver goblets, lined with gold, and a napkin ring of the same material. The gentleman was evidently surprised at this part of the performance, but soon nerved himself sufficiently to return thanks.

A piece, entitled "Mollie's Answer," was next sung by several young Misses of the day school, with Miss Black at the organ, when the Rev. W. H. Andrews was introduced, and made a brief address, in which he encouraged the young people before him to persevere in well doing.

Prof. Luckey, city superintendent was next introduced, by Prof. Duncan, as the "Boss" of all the schools, and made a few humorous remarks which were well received.

Two little boys of the night school next sung a song entitled "Maggie May," which was enthusiastically applauded, after which the young folks marched, in most excellent order, to the supper table. A benediction was pronounced by Rev. Mr. Taylor, when ample justice was done to the edibles, which had been furnished in luxurious abundance by the teachers and friends of the school.

In the conduct of this exhibition, Prof. Duncan, the Principal, and the other teachers of the Washington district, fully retained their well known reputations for social and intellectual qualities of the first order, as well as manifested, in the most unmistakable manner, the deep interest they take in the youth committed to their charge.

Advertising and the Panic.

Under the caption, "Advantages of Advertising in Dull Times," the New York *Evening Post* says that a merchant who continued his advertisements during the whole period of stagnation in 1857, and notwithstanding many predictions that it wouldn't pay, declared that his sales were steady and his profits satisfactory, while many merchants around them, who couldn't afford to advertise, saw their clerks stand idle behind their counters. There could not be a better testimonial to the efficacy of advertising. It is a well-authenticated fact that during prosperous times the house that advertises largely is the house that flourishes. Indeed, the testimony of the greatest merchants in the land, the largest ship and steamboat owners, the most successful men of all classes, is universally to the same effect, that advertising is the veritable bread upon the waters which returns unto them after many days; and if there is any time in which the advantage of advertising is more particularly felt, it is during and after the depression consequent upon a panic. Not alone is the keeping up of appearances a *sine qua non* of successful trade, but we must never lose sight of the fact that, however depressed the seller may be in the day of trouble, some one has been invariably shrewd enough to lay by a store for a rainy day, while hundreds have hoarded up in anticipation of this very crisis. These men want to buy—they must buy—and their trade will naturally flow to the house which advertises the most, and appears to keep its head the highest above water. Whatever a man does in the midst of a financial trial, so long as his ship will float at at all, let him advertise. It will strengthen his credit then and forever after; it will bring to his store or his counting-room scores of customers who, from the disappearance of their old friends from the advertising lists, have imagined them defunct. In every respect it will pay. This has been the experience and is the testimony of the most successful business men in the United States.

Wheat Advancing.

Look out for flour.

THE GREAT CRISIS.

Why Men Are Unfaithful to Private Duties and Public Trusts.

The following is an extract from a sermon preached on Sunday evening in Mr. Oliver Church, Fulton street by Rev. J. Q. A. Weller. The text was Daniel v:27. "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting." Men are sometimes so intoxicated by wealth and power, that they become oblivious to danger and duty, and neglect all the means of safety in their blind folly to serve their own sordid passions. Such was the case with the character in the text. Babylon was besieged by a powerful army led by the victorious Cyrus. Belshazzar, the foolish King, made no attempt, or at least a very feeble one, to raise the siege and defend his capital. He trusted entirely to the height and thickness of the walls, and the strength of the hundred brazen gates. He could not imagine how the city could be taken either by storm or stratagem, and so he fancied himself secure, and gave himself up to pleasure. When the day for the annual festival arrived, the whole city gave itself up to feasting and revelry. The sentries became remiss in their duties. The fires went out on the top of Belus, and the watch truers; the gates of brass that led from the quays to the palace were left open and unguarded. The King gave a grand entertainment to a thousand of his lords, and as it was at night it was fashionable. The pride and luxury of the Assyrian were there. They appeared in the most gorgeous robes of state. Tall satraps, with jeweled swords hung at their sides, stalked amid the assembled throng.

The banqueting festoons were hung with rows of flowers and beautiful banners that depended in graceful folds from lofty column and springing arch. Beautiful chandeliers, curiously wrought in the form of golden torches poured a flood of light upon the banqueting hall. The table was loaded with the richest wines and viands. The dancers' feet kept time to the music. The monarch began to feel brave, as drunken men generally do, and insolently ordered the sacred vessel that had been used in the service of Jehovah in the temple of Jerusalem, to be brought in and insulted God by drinking out of them to the Babylonian idols. No sooner had the sacred vessels touched the blasphemous lips than the king was terror-stricken by the apparition of a man's handwriting on the wall. The crisis had come. That ominous writing was the declaration "Thou art weighed in the balances and art found wanting." Scarcely had the interpretation been given before shouts and confusion were heard in the streets. The avengers of heaven were at hand. The Medes had turned the Euphrates out of its channel, entered the city, and were thundering at the palace gates. That night Belshazzar, the king, was slain. He was found wanting in character, which is necessary to constitute a good ruler—vigilance, bravery and respect for God. If any man is foolish enough to suppose that he can mock God with impunity, let him die in peace, let him read history and the Bible.

Such alas! however, is the case with thousands in this day and age of the world in every department of life. Men are found wanting, and when the great crisis of their lives—some specious temptation is presented they are not prepared to resist.

They are found wanting in humility, in patriotism, in honesty and love to God—qualities that are necessary to the making up of the true man.

The Pope declared himself infallible, assumed the powers and prerogatives of the Diety, God thrust him into the balances and found him wanting in humility, his heart was proud and lifted up. His moral and kingly power, stripped of his possessions and reduced to the condition of an Italian vassal.

Louis Napoleon was weighed at Sedan, and found wanting in patriotism and bravery, the mask of his selfishness was torn off, he was hurled from his throne and died a prisoner to Germany, and died an exile in England. Tweed has been weighed and found wanting in honesty, he betrayed the sacred trust confided to him by the people, and is now in the penitentiary, torn from the grand upholstered halls of his palatial home and confined in the gloom of convict's cell.

And the final result. Belshazzar-like, in every sphere of life. Men wanting in vigilance, in sobriety, in honesty and true moral courage; men who serve themselves liberally at the public crib, who corrupt others, who sell or betray the most sacred trusts confided to them; men who rob the General Government, the State Government, the municipal government; men who live by fraud, who break the bank and devour the substance of widows and orphans; in a word, men who are wanting in the very elements that go to the making up of a true and noble manhood.

Now all this, I maintain arises mainly from the lack of respect for the principles of Christian religion. That is, that is unfaithful to God and recreant to the trust confided to him will be unfaithful in his duties and will betray the trust of men. We want a higher standard of morality in the walks of life. A higher sense of duty to God and our fellow men, and then shall men be able to resist temptations more readily. The first great duty is the change of heart. That is unfaithful to God and recreant to the trust confided to him by the Almighty, and is the basis of every other duty. The poet puts it beautifully,

"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify;
A never dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky."

The man who neglects that trust must take the consequences, he

"Shall forever die."

The rich man neglected it, when he died, he was buried, was cast down to hell from which all his professions on earth could not redeem him, nay, could not procure for him one drop of water to cool his parched tongue.

Voltair rejected him as his Master, neglected this trust when the great crisis came, when he came to die he cursed himself, "I am abandoned by God and man." "Doctor," said he, "I will give you half of what I am worth, if you will give me six months' life." The doctor replied "Sir, six months are but six weeks; and the miserable man soon after expired.

Let every man see to it, that he does his duty, and that he be found ready when the great trial hour comes.

ROBERT J. GRIER.

Petition in Bankruptcy on Behalf of the Nation Trust Company.

Yesterday, in the United States District Court, Robert Dickson, Esq., "President and Trustee of the Nation Trust Company," presented through his counsel, Messrs. Brown and Lambie, a petition asking that Robert J. Grier, absconding cashier of the Nation Trust Company, be adjudged a bankrupt. The petition sets forth at length that Grier, as cashier of the Nation Trust Company had the care and custody of its moneys and assets, appropriated and converted to his own use, at sundry times within the present year, large sums of money, the property of the bank, together with valuable bills receivable, notes, &c., the property of petitioner as cashier of the bank, and has absconded and legally liable to the petitioner in large sums of money, taken without the knowledge or consent of petitioner; and having departed from this State November 15th, 1873, with intent to defraud his creditors, and being still absent; and having thus committed an act of bankruptcy within the six months preceding his departure by concealing himself and avoiding process, &c., the petitioner prays that the said Grier be adjudged a bankrupt.

The prayer of the petitioner was granted, and referred to Register Marshall. Marshal Hall being appointed provisional assignee.

Fell Off a Bridge.

About eight o'clock last evening, a young man of Allegheny named Robert Montgomery, and a companion were crossing the railroad bridge at Robinson street, when the former made a misstep and fell off the bridge, lighting upon his head and shoulders, and crushing his skull in terrible manner. A physician was summoned to his aid, and all that was possible was done to relieve the sufferings of the young man. He was still living at the dispatch was sent, though his injury will likely prove fatal. At the same point frequent accidents have happened, and it is properly the duty of the authorities to prevent them by the laying of boards over the ties.

CITY MATTERS IN BRIEF.

THE first calendars for 1874 reach us through Messrs. Jackson & McEwen, job printers, 401 Fifth avenue.

THOMAS A. BEST, the Pittsburgher who has been figuring in the criminal line in Philadelphia, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment for larceny.

THE Finance Committee will meet again this afternoon, in the Select Council Chamber, to continue the investigation of the Water Bond misappropriation.

IT is said that there was no truth whatever in the rumor that a statement from Mr. Grier was submitted at the secret session of the Finance Committee, the other evening.

THE changes in the Pittsburgh postoffice are approaching completion. The new lock boxes are neat and convenient, and the facilities of the office will be greatly facilitated by the improvements.

THE Harrisburg *Patriot* was a little confused in regard to "time, place, and circumstance," when it said: "A row in the Monongahela last week washed away portions of the Allegheny Valley Railroad."

THE Woman's Missionary Society of the Sandusky street Baptist Church, Allegheny, held its first anniversary meeting on Sunday. Rev. B. F. Woodburn delivered the sermon. The reports showed the society to be in a flourishing condition.

THE St. Louis *Globe* is altogether too liberal in giving away its citizens: "The prize fighters have graced Pittsburgh with their presence. We hope they will find such inducements as will tempt them to make a permanent stay. If they return here they will not be welcomed home with any degree of enthusiasm by the general public."

YOUNG men who enjoy a good meal should go to Excelsior Hall, Allegheny City, on Thursday evening, at which time the ladies of the Allegheny Relief Society will serve up an excellent supper. The funds raised thereby are to be expended for the relief of those in need of charity. No better way to invest fifty cents could be found by those having it to spare.

A NUMBER of drunken miners, from Irwin station, who took passage on the Cincinnati express east, on Sunday noon, acted in a very disorderly manner on the train, using insulting and indecent language, and giving much annoyance to the other passengers. The party was too large for the train crew to attempt to eject, and they rode to Irwin's, where they got out in a hurry, expecting to be arrested. They will no doubt be looked after.

THE pupils of the Hollidaysburg Seminary will give a concert, on Thursday evening, the 18th instant, for the benefit of the Literary Society. Among the vocal and instrumental performers named in the programme are Miss Davison, Miss Bingham, Miss Slataper, Miss Paulson, Miss Pears and Miss Johnston, of Pittsburgh; Miss Iddings, Mercer county; Miss Barker, New Castle; Miss Wilson and Miss Brown, West Virginia; and Miss Power, Brownsville.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

Common Pleas—Judges Stowe and Collier.

In the case of Jacob F. Hand, Jr., vs. Burke & Barnes, an action to recover for a lot of springs, alleged to have been sold, the jury found for the defendants.

In the case of W. D. Rinehart vs. Isaac Charles, an action to recover a commission for personal service rendered in organizing the Jackson Steel Company, of Allegheny city, the jury is out.

In the case of the Commonwealth ex rel James E. Ross vs. Alexander Ross, the commission of lunacy issued was superseded and the defendant allowed to take charge of his estate.

The jury found for plaintiffs for $170 94 in the case of Hood, Bonright & Co